

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: Most generous God, you have blessed us with gifts to serve and share. May the offerings we present today be used to promote the peace, justice and healing you desire for us and your world. Amen.

HYMN *To God be the Glory* Chalice Hymnal, #72

BENEDICTION

Pastor: As the disciples walked with Christ so long ago,
walk with Christ in your hearts and spirits.
Feel the power of the Holy Spirit guiding your path –
directing your words and actions.
Know the love of God which is poured out for you
and for many – and REJOICE!

All people: Amen.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING
POSTLUDE

Acolyte
Mr. Kevin Crone

Resources

- Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License: #A-733911
- All music printed or posted on powerpoint with permission: CCLI #1528365
- All of today's liturgy, unless otherwise noted, was written by Nancy C. Townley for *Ministry Matters: Worship Connection: June 23, 2021*. Used with permission.
- The Offering Invitation and Prayer of Dedication are from: *The Waiting: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany*. They were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

August 4, 2024
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Welcome Rev. Dr. Christopher Rodkey

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

Mr. Kevin Crone

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDLELIGHTING

Acolyte

PRELUDE

(Please stand in spirit and/or body)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: The world cries to us in its distress. How shall we answer?

Congregation: We cannot pass by as though nothing is wrong.

Liturgist: How shall we answer?

Congregation: We cannot become so focused on ourselves that others mean nothing to us.

Liturgist: How shall we answer?

Congregation: We shall be the neighbor in service, reconciliation and compassion wherever we can.

All people: Amen.

HYMN

O For a World

Chalice Hymnal, #683

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, the truth is liberating. Let us honestly examine our hearts and minds and confess our sins before God. We begin with a moment of silence for personal confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: Lord, sometimes we are confused.

All people: We hear bad news continually shouted from our televisions and radios or screaming from social media sites and our newspapers. The whole world seems to be shrieking in pain. Innocent people are being destroyed by the whims of the wicked. Disease and pestilence reign supreme in too many

parts of the world. We turn an indifferent ear to the cries of others, often because we are so overwhelmed by the needs and feel helpless in the face of such chaos. We close our eyes. We walk away, often crossing over to the side of self-importance and indifference because we are afraid to become involved. Our society is quick to sue and slow to heal. We succumb to those pressures in our fear. Help us, O Lord. Heal our spirits as well as our bodies. Open our hearts and our eyes to see you, O Christ, that we may be empowered to service rather than shrink away or disappear. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive us. Ready us to be your disciples. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVNESS

Pastor: The Lord is faithful to hear and forgive.
Walk now in the confidence that God hears and forgives, loves, and restores. Walk as one forgiven. Live the love of God.

All people: To God be the glory, for all the things God has done!

PRAISE HYMN *To God be the Glory* **Chalice Hymnal, #72**
(Refrain, Only)

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory – great things He hath done!*

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: May the peace of Christ fill you with hope and joy.
Peace be with you.

All people: And also, with you.

(The congregation may be seated)

HYMN *The Voice of God is Calling* **Chalice Hymnal, #666**

OLD TESTAMENT READING **2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a**

GOSPEL READING **Luke 10:25-37**

SERMON *Asking the Wrong Question* **Rev. Dr. Christopher Rodkey**

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

All people: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Give Me a Clean Heart* (Doroux) **Mr. Kevin Crone**

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: In this setting, our hearts become full of Christ's Spirit, and we are reminded of the many blessings that constitute our daily lives. In this moment, we have an opportunity to return a portion of those blessings as a way of saying, "Thank you, God" and to bring healing and hope to those in need. To our offering, let us add a song and prayer.

(Please stand in spirit and/or body)

OFFERING RESPONSE **Accept, O God, the Gifts** **Chalice Hymnal, #379**

*Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay.
Transform them into blessings on those we serve today.
Rekindle deep within us all passion to fulfill
The ministry disciples have, empowered to do your will.*