

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
 Emily Moyer, Guest Preacher
 July 18, 2021
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**PRELUDE
 GREETING**

CALL TO WORSHIP ¹

Liturgist: We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ—
 members of God’s family,
 and brothers and sisters to one another.
 There are no outsiders here among us,
 no one has any special standing or bragging rights.
 For we have been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus.
 And so we begin, together, in a spirit of humble and grateful prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

All people: Amazing God, we are in awe of your magnificent power displayed throughout the entire universe, for through you all things were made, and all things have their being. We come before you with grateful thanks and with hearts that long to adore you, and worship only you. Lord, may we know the presence of the Holy Spirit here with us today. May we be open to your leading, sensitive to you speaking and alert to your calling. Heavenly Father, we invite the same power that was at work when Jesus was raised from the grave to be present with us here now, that we might experience new beginnings – new life. Lord, we declare that you are welcome here among us! Amen.

HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Bulletin, Page 4

ACT OF CONFESSION

Liturgist: Every week, we begin worship by remembering that we are God’s children, and all are a part of God’s family. We also take time to ask God for forgiveness, using a Prayer of Confession, because we all sin and fall short of God’s hope for us! Assured of God’s mercy, let us confess.

*All people: We confess, O God, that we do not live up to the family name: Christian.
 We are more ready to resent than to forgive,
 more ready to manipulate than to humble ourselves, and serve,
 more ready to fear than to love,
 more ready to keep our distance than to welcome,
 more ready to compete than to help.
 We do not love one another as we should,
 and in doing so, do not love you, as we ought.
 Forgive us our sin.
 Make us aware again, of the meaning and depth of your love at the cross and empty grave.
 Show us once more what it cost you to give up your Son, and the meaning of sacrificial love.
 We want to reflect Christ’s likeness and be the sons and daughters, which you claim we are.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Brother, and Savior.
 Amen.²*

¹ Longhurst, Christine. “Call to Worship. Based on Ephesians 2:11-22” re: Worship, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/06/call-to-worship-ephesians-2-11-22.html>.

² Baily, Chad. Corporate Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (Adapted) <https://www.monergism.com/corporate-confession-sin-and-assurance-pardon>

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS ³

Liturgist: Sisters and brothers in Christ, we know we all fall short in our discipleship.
We've confessed our sins before God and one another.
By God's overflowing steadfast love and mercy, we are forgiven!

All people: Thanks be to God. Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: God's forgiveness gives us peace. Let us pass grace and peace to one another, from wherever we are, with a smile, a nod, a wave, or a two-finger peace sign along with the hearty exclamation: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Congregation: And also, with you.

GOSPEL READING**John 21:15-25****SERMON****Ms. Emily Moyer****PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Liturgist: Let us join together in a spirit of prayer, trusting that God will move us to make real the prayers we pray. Let us pray:

All people: We praise you for your abiding guidance, O God, for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, to model for us the way of love for the whole universe. We offer now, prayers of love on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors, on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

Moment of Silence for Congregation to offer their silent prayers of joy and concern...

Liturgist: Let us continue to pray aloud together:

All people: Loving God, draw us closer to you and one another, and through our words and actions, may the whole world become one with you as you are one with us, in Jesus Christ our Lord. We continue as he taught us saying: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Based on Ephesians 4:25-5:2)

Liturgist: Each week we come to this moment in worship, when we pause to consider how we express our gratitude and love for God. We pause to consider how the stewardship of our time, talent, and financial resources, reflect the "love" we say we have for the church. We pause to consider how we will share God's Good News with others through our tithes and offerings. Let us each take a moment to listen to the Spirit's nudging, and consider our stewardship of God's blessings...

A moment of silence...

Liturgist: Let us now dedicate our tithes and offerings to the Lord in prayer...

All people: Gracious God, we joyously place before you, our offerings. May these gifts support our ministry so that others may gather in your name and follow your path of love and peace. We, your beloved children, seek to be "imitators of God" and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN*This is a Day of New Beginnings***Bulletin, Page 4****ANNOUNCEMENTS****On Video Screen**

³ Chin, Rev. Quentin. Copyright 2021, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/pentecost-8-july-18/>

BENEDICTION (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Liturgist: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good that you may do his will,
working in us, that, which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory forever and ever.

All people: Amen.

POSTLUDE**My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

RAY PALMER, 1830

6. 6. 4. 6. 6. 6. 4.

OLIVET
LOWELL MASON, 1832*In moderate time; not too slowly*

1. My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2. May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
3. While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a - round me spread,
4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - iour di - vine: Now hear me while I pray, Take all my
My zeal in - spire; As Thou hast died for me, O may my
Be Thou my Guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - iour, then, in love, Fear and dis -

guilt a - way, O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul! A-MEN.

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This Is a Day of New Beginnings

2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
 * In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.