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GREETING & INTRODUCTION of Rev. Carrie Call

Ms. Amy Parker

GREETING from PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Rev. Carrie Call

ANNOUNCEMENTS – *Please check your bulletins and church newsletter for updates, of particular need of our attention is:*

- A) *Servants NE Home Helps Work Camp – 12th Anniversary of this mission. Meal preparation for volunteers and homeowners organized by Starview UCC. Kitchen assistance and monetary donations to help cover food costs and home repair costs are needed. Contact the church office or JoAnn Kreeger for additional information.*
- B) *American Red Cross - Our 2nd Quarter Mission time frame has been extended as the needs for the following items grows in light of both, the national coronavirus pandemic and natural disasters happening across the nation: deodorants, combs, hairbrushes, razors, shaving cream, slipper socks, sample size shampoos, body washes, toothbrushes, and toothpastes. Puzzle/coloring books, crayons, markers, notebook paper, and writing tools are welcome for children, youth, & adults. Monetary donations are also graciously accepted. Your gifts, while they may seem small, combined with the gifts of others, make a HUGE difference in many lives.*

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Liturgist: From a mustard seed – a great and mighty shrub emerges.

Congregation: Good things can come from something that seem so insignificant!

Liturgist: A spore of yeast can leaven a whole loaf of bread.

Congregation: We can be those people who bring hope and peace to God’s world!

Liturgist: Come! Let us praise the God of great and mighty wonders.

Congregation: Let our spirits soar in gratitude for the opportunities God gives us to serve.

Liturgist: Let us begin in pray together.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION²

All: Lord, you place before us the images of the small – the tiny mustard seed, the grain of yeast, a small treasure – and remind us that we, though we think of ourselves as small, we are not insignificant in your kingdom. Open our hearts and our spirits to you in thankful remembrance of the ways in which we serve you throughout all our lives. Amen.

CONFESSION

Liturgist: As we’ve already heard in this morning’s liturgy or worship words, ALL things are significant to the Lord. Even those sins, for which we make excuses or feel, are too “small” to matter. Let us silently confess our sin.

(MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS³

Liturgist: Do not be afraid. God is working mighty things in your life – **right now!**

You have been given the spirit of hope and courage. God is with you.

Congregation: We will put our trust in God’s absolute care because we know – that God loves and forgives us!

¹ Townley, Nancy. (Adapted) “Call to Worship #1; WORSHIP CONNECTION: PENTECOST 6 YR. A. June 3rd, 2011.”
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1141/worship-connection-pentecost-6-yr-a> 10 June 2020.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

All: Thanks be to God!

HEBREW READING - 1 Kings 3:5-12 (NIV)

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." ⁶Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. ⁷"Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰The LORD was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹²I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (NIV)

³¹He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³²Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." ³³He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. ⁵²He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

SERMON

Rev. Carrie Call, PCC Interim Conference Minister

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

OFFERING INVITATION⁴

Liturgist: Look around - at this gathering. Look at the faces of those you know and those you do not. Give thanks for the many moments of service to God, neighbor, and one another. Imagine too, the many faces of those who are not able to be on site for worship this morning - but who are still, very much present, across the airwaves and miles – worshipping virtually and/or in spirit. Imagine their faces – those you know and those you do not yet know. Isn't it wonderful to know that we are ALL a part of a community of people who want to follow Jesus? We share so much with those early Christians who "struggled in the work of the gospel" but also found joy in the Lord, joy in the life and mission they shared together. No matter what we are carrying this morning, or what we face, we are not alone. At

⁴ Huey, Rev. Katherine. (Adapted) "Offering Invitation: Sunday, October 12 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time" Worship Ways, Vol 7, No. 3 Copyright 2008 Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. < http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy_url/3825/offering-invitations-for-ordinary-time.pdf?1418427555 > 10 June 2020.

this moment in our worship, we're invited to share what we have so that others will find the same welcome, and the same joy we have known. Let's pause for a moment, in silent prayer, to offer to the Lord, our gifts of money, time, and talent. (Moment of silent prayer)

Liturgist: Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us now recommit ourselves to the mission of Christ and Christ's church – offering all we have, all we are, and all we will ever be, to God in gratitude and praise using the Offertory Prayer printed in our bulletins...

OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: Loving God, we offer back to you what we have been given: our treasure, our time, and our lives. Bless our gifts and multiply them for our purposes. Amen.

ANTHEM

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Rachael Wertz, Soprano Solo

What a fellowship, what a joy divine!
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine!
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning
Safe and secure from all alarms.
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
What have I to dread, what have I to fear?
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near!
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning -
Safe and secure from all alarms.
Leaning, leaning -
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

BENEDICTION⁵

Pastor: Go now, into the world,
as workers in God's upside-down kingdom,
where the last are first and the first are last,
where needs are met in miraculous ways,
and there is grace enough for all!

And may the blessing of God,
the love of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
surround you and sustain you in the coming days.

All: Amen.

⁵ Re:Worship. Benediction: The Upside-Down Kingdom. Proper 20A <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/benediction-upside-down-kingdom.html> 10 June 2020

