Prelude  

*The Day of the Lord is Upon Us* (Markle)

**Greeting & Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: The God of our ancestors has led us to this place.

*Congregation:* *We are witnesses.*

Pastor: We have sworn to teach God's promises to all generations.

*Congregation:* *We ARE witnesses!*

Pastor: The time is coming when Christ will come again in glory.

*Congregation:* *WE ARE WITNESSES!*

Pastor: Let us tell the world of God's faithful love.

*All:* *We will worship and witness together!*

**Act of Confession**

Pastor: Though we may delight to be here, together, in worship, let us remember that the Prophet Amos offers us a word from God to challenge any complacent comfort. Our praise, our worship, our singing, however beautiful and heartfelt, must be accompanied by the work of justice in community. What pleases God is to have justice pour from our lives like waters, and righteousness from our work, like an ever-flowing stream. So, let us pause for a moment and consider: what parts of our lives, our community, our world, are thirsting for waters of Justice and Righteousness? *(Moment of Silent Confession observed)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Pastor: God’s grace flows through our lives, refreshing and making all things new.

May this grace flow from us as justice and righteousness, that our lives and work may bless our world.

*Congregation:* *For the sake of Jesus, may it be so.*

*All people:* *Amen!*

**Special Music**

**Hebrew Reading – Amos 5:18-24**

18 Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

   Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

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1 Rev. Susan Blain is Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts, Faith INFO Ministry Team, UCC and is a contributed this liturgy for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost, Year A. 27 Oct 2020
as if someone fled from a lion,  
and was met by a bear;  
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,  
and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,  
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals  
I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

EPISTLE READING – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.  
For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.  
For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.  
For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.  
Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so, we will be with the Lord forever.  
Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.  
Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.  
When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;  
but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.  
As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.  
But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’  
Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.  
The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’  
But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’  
And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.  
Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’  
But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’  
Therefore keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom comes. 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.

Liturgist: It is true, is it not, that all good things come from God, the giver of life? We are called to be wise stewards of God’s gifts of time, talent, and money, to share in the fulfillment of God’s purposes for all of creation. As stewards of the Kingdom of God, let us give from our abundance with thanksgiving and joy. Please join me now in dedicating our very selves, and our tithes and offering to the work of God’s kingdom.

For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.

I Love to Tell the Story

Go now to tell the stories of our God.

We will listen to the lives of those around us as we do.

Go now to discover the gifts of everyone you meet.

We will remember Jesus, who blessed us with hope and life.

Go now to share all that is within you.

We will tell everyone - from the smallest child to the oldest person - of the Spirit who welcomes us and longs to shape us into one community.

In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Amen.

Our Lord, Creator and Redeemer (Jones)

2 Rev. Thom Shuman is a Presbyterian minister in Columbus, Ohio. He is currently serving in interim or transitional ministry, as he writes a personal lectionary blog called “Lectionary Liturgies.” This Benediction is from November 9, 2014. http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2014/11/liturgy-wcommunion-for-november-9-2014.html 27 October 2020
I Love to Tell the Story

I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever — Psalm 89:1 NIV

1. I love to tell the story Of unseen things above, Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love: I love to seem each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet; I love to hungering and thirsting To hear it, like the rest: And when, in telling the story Because I know ’tis true; It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do. I love to tell the story, ’Twill story That I have loved so long.

2. I love to tell the story; ’Tis pleasant to repeat What scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, ’Twill be the old, old vacation From God’s own holy Word. I love to tell the story, ’Twill story That I have loved so long.

3. I love to tell the story; For some have never heard The message of salvation From God’s own holy Word. I love to tell the story, ’Twill story That I have loved so long.

WORDS: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911
MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912
HANKEY
7.6.7.6.D. with Refrain