

9:00 *Come forward when invited to take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup.*

10:30 *Serve the bread to one another and eat as you are served. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal of gluten free, tree nut and peanut free bread. Hold the cup of juice until all are served, that we may express our unity in Christ by drinking together.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*unison*)

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Hymn 467**

MATERNA

**O Beautiful for Spacious Skies**

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed all grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress a thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness! America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.**

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears! America! America! God shed all grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**

**Benediction**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Postlude**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

A United Church of Christ Congregation

July 1, 2018

**Call to Worship**

adapted from T. Shuman, inspired by Psalm 30

One: Sing praises to the Holy One:

**All: who heals us and makes us whole.**

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, faithful children of God:

**All: whose joy rises in our lives each and every day.**

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, beloved of God:

**All: give thanks to God's holy name.**

One: God's Kingdom is near to us;

**All: God's peace resides in our hearts.**

**Hymn 427**

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

**My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.**

**No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

**Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?**

**No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

**What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior's living. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he's giving.**

**No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

adapted from S. Blain

Too often, Gracious One, we resist turning to you for healing and change. When we resist your call to open our hearts, to allow your grace to enter, have mercy on us. When we close our minds to your new and unexpected possibilities of healing and reconciliation, have mercy on us. When we let fear overwhelm us and cling to the security of what we know, instead of risking new steps toward your freedom, have mercy on us. Hear us pray...

*(moments for silent reflections)*

**Words of Assurance**

**Anthem**

Felix Mendelssohn

O Rest in the Lord from *Elijah*

*John McDonald, baritone*

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Hymn 402**

MARYTON

O Christ, the Healer

O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed; yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.

How strong, O Christ, are our desires, how weak our knowledge of ourselves! Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.

In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease; our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the while of humankind.

**Offertory**

Here I Am, Lord

Daniel Schutte

*Bill Oldham, baritone*

**Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessing flow.  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Scripture Lesson**

Matthew 25:31-46

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

Peter Wiley

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Now the Silence

J. Vajda and C. Schalk