

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, August 4, 2019

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship based on Psalm 107

One: Give thanks and praise to the LORD!

All: **For God has dealt mercifully with us!**

One: Even when we turned our backs on God,

All: **God forgave us and restored us to life.**

One: Rejoice in God's abundant love.

All: **We will continually praise God
who heals and loves us.**

Hymn 3 CONSTANTINE
God of Abraham and Sarah

God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Moses, Miriam's
Guide; God of David and the prophets, God in Jesus
glorified: up from the dust you raise a people, breathe
in the breath of life, of soul; down through the years
the people praise you till alleluias make them whole!

God who dances in creation, spinning stars above our
heads; God whose face is scribed in music, by whose
hand the earth is fed: up from the ground you raise
the mountains, raise our spirits, lift our eyes; down
through the years your people praise you till alleluias
flood the skies!

God who loves the poor in spirit, God who comforts
those who mourn; balm for wounds, the friend of sin-
ners, taking the side of earth's forlorn: up from the
depths you raise your people, giving them courage for

the day; down through the years the people praise you
till alleluias light their way!

In our lives from birth to dying, depth of sorrow,
height of joy; praising God in ev'ry season, let ev'ry
key our hearts employ. Praise is the healing, praise,
the glory, praise is the final mystery; down through the
years let people praise you till alleluias set them free!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

adapted from N. Williams

God of grace, we confess that we are more eager to
receive your mercy than we are to extend your kind-
ness to others. We ask for what we need without
considering whether we have what someone else
needs. We seek your forgiveness but hold grudges
against others. We want you to lead us but only if
you will send us where we want to go. Forgive us,
Gracious One, and give us resolve to turn our lives
around, that we would give more, forgive more, and
follow Jesus more. Hear our prayers...

(*moments for silent reflections*)

Words of Assurance

Anthem R. Clausen
Set Me As a Seal
Memorial Choir

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 in-
to temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the

kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

Hymn 442 ERIE
What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs
to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God
in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what
needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble any-
where? We should never be discouraged; take it to
the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our eve-
ry weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, burdened with a load
of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to
the Lord in prayer! Do your friends despise, forsake
you? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll
take and shield you, you will find a solace there.

Offertory E. Titcomb
I Will Not Leave You Comfortless

Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God from whom all blessings 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 **Colossians 3:1-14a, pg 178 NT**

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! ¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love.

Sermon

Jeanette Brodersen

Sacrament of Holy Communion

I Myself Am the Bread of Life R. Cooney

Everyone is welcome to share in this meal.

Please serve one another the gluten free, tree nut and peanut free bread, and eat as you are served symbolizing your individual need for Christ. 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 381

McKEE

In Christ There Is No East or West

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north; but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find; his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be; all children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north; all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude