Welcome

Announcements

Prelude  Et in terra pax from “Mass for the Parishes”  F. Couperin

Call to Worship

One: We gather in the name of our loving God.
Many: The disabled God, the God of access, the God of interdependence, the God whose differences are holy. All of us, with our differing abilities, are created in God’s image and likeness.

One: God has called us here today for healing, hope, and transformation. How shall we worship?
Many: With sounds and with silence, with raised hands and with stillness, with words spoken and unspoken, with deep thought and the inner movements of the soul.

One: With every limit and ability of our bodies and minds, we will worship our God.
Many: All praise be to God, our creator, sustainer, and redeemer.

Hymn  NCH 16 “Let Us with a Joyful Mind”

Confession

God, we come in prayer to you burdened with our unhappy business: all the deeds done under the sun that we would rather not remember, the sound of sin in our world.
The explosions caused by bombs made in our own factories.
The cries of the hungry that are not fed in our own communities.
Our own hurtful words hurled at those we love.
The echoing silence of creatures who we have driven to extinction.
Hearer of all, you know too clearly the sorrows of our world!
Forgive us our sins, and help us right the wrongs we’ve done. Give us words of repentance to share with those we’ve wronged, ringing courage to stand up for the voiceless creatures of the world and a resounding love for the lowest and the least. Most of all, tune our ears to the voice of Jesus, so that always and everywhere we might hear his song of peace for every creature under the sun.

~Time for silent reflection and prayer~

Assurance of God’s Love

People of God, the grace of the Divine is wide and deep enough for us all. Shed any guilt or shame that holds you back from authentic, loving connections with others. Do not be afraid of your humanity, even when being human means making mistakes. For you are loved more deeply than you can imagine, and there is nothing that can separate you from God’s unconditional love. Amen.
Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ is with you all!
And also with you.

Response

“Lord, Prepare Me To Be a Sanctuary”

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; with thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for You. (repeat)

Reading

Hebrews 4: 12-16 (NRSV)

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before God no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For the word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

With boldness

Pastor Lacey Brown

Musical Offering

“Kumbaya, Traditional Spiritual”

arr. P. Sjoland

Prayers of the People

“The Lord’s Prayer, Reimagined”

Our God who is embodied, holy are your differences.
May your work of inclusion be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Grant us access in all the ways we need. And forgive us for excluding others, as we forgive those who exclude us. Keep us away from the temptation of believing we are not enough, and deliver us from the evils of ableism. God, in you we find community, welcome, and belonging; now and forever. Amen.

Ministry Moments

Disability Justice: Laura Steed Lorino, Director of L'Arche in the Triangle
Creation Care: Gary Smith, Chair of the Do Justice Committee and member of Justice in a Changing Climate

Invitation to Give

- Text the amount of your donation, and one keyword, to 919-888-4541
  General – give to CUCC’s general fund
  Pledge – give toward your pledge
  CROP – give to CROP Walk
  Hope – give to Walk for Hope

- You can give online at our website www.communityucc.org by simply clicking on Donate.

- Or you can always mail a check to our physical address: 814 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, NC 27607
Offertory “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” traditional spiritual arr. C. Callahan

Offering Response “Doxology” (Old Hundred)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that Love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

Dedication to the Offering

God of abundance, we believe that there is enough for all, so long as we share what we have. Bless our generosity with justice, access, and a community where all can bring their gifts to the table. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Hymn NCH 410 “If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

Benediction

As you leave this space remember that everyone you encounter is made in the image of God. Embrace your own differences, celebrate the differences of others, and proclaim the Good News that God’s love does not fit neatly into a tiny box, but is without limits. It extends to all creatures! God in peace to love and serve. Amen.

Postlude “Sing and Rejoice” Don Besig & Nancy Price

Visit www.communityucc.org to explore ways to connect with our church.

CUCC is here to support you throughout the week.
While our physical office is closed, our virtual office is open.
Please email office.cucc@gmail.com to reach our office.
Please email lacey.cucc@gmail.com for pastoral care needs.

We thank all of those who created parts of today’s liturgy.
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all
Let us with a joyful mind praise our God forever kind,
New-made earth was filled with light through God’s all commanding might,
Dazzling bright the sun obeys God who shines with brighter rays,
Stars and moon that span gle night all depend on heaven’s light,

Refrain

Rich with mercies that endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

Creatures of the sea and land
all are fed by God’s own hand,
Rich with mercies that endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

Therefore with a joyful mind,
praise our God forever kind,
Rich with mercies that endure
ever faithful, ever sure.

As a youth of fifteen, John Milton composed a lengthy, elaborate paraphrase of Psalm 136 from which these lines have been selected. Milton, an English Puritan and Congregationalist, is best known for Paradise Lost.
Hymn
NCH 410 “If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

1. If you but trust in God to guide you, with hopeful heart through all your ways,
you will find strength, with God beside you, heart content, trust-ing that grace which knows no measure to bear the worst of evil days;

2. On-ly be still, and wait God’s plea-sure in cheer-ful hope, with faith-fully, and trust God’s word, though undeserving, will by un-bounded Love be sent; Nor doubt our in-most there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to

3. Sing, pray, and keep God’s ways un-swerv-ing; of-fer your ser-vice change-less love build on the rock that will not move.
wants are clear to One who holds us always near.
guide and bless those who embrace God’s faith-ful-ness.

The comforting words of Psalm 55:22 inspired this beautiful hymn by Georg Neumark, who wrote both words and music. Neumark was a German poet who suffered much during the Thirty Years’ War.

Georg Neumark, 1637