Welcome

Announcements

Prelude  “Thanks Be To God”  G. F. Handel

Call to Worship

One: Lord, we have come to you this day bringing all that we have, our lives, our hopes and dreams, our fears and sorrows. We place these before you in faith and hope, knowing that no matter what has happened you are with us and blessing us.

Many: Open our hearts to receive your words and your spirit, that we may find healing and comfort. Open our lives to the wondrous possibilities for service and joy that you offer to us. Ease our minds and spirits that we may hear the words of encouragement and peace this day.

Hymn  NCH 565 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Confession

Gracious God, so often we look at ourselves, our gifts and our talents, and wonder what you would do with these offerings. We don't think that we have much to give. So, far too many times, we belittle the gifts and turn our backs on the needs and opportunities present to serve, believing that our gifts cannot possibly make a difference. We think that we must possess the greatest of talents and wealth in order to truly please and serve you. How foolish we are! Forgive us when we stop listening to your healing and comforting words and focus on our anxieties. Heal us, Lord. Help us know that you have given to us such blessings and that these blessings are truly wonderful and meant to be used for joy and service to others.

~ Time for silent reflection and prayer~

Assurance of God’s Love

God has given to each one of us such blessings and talents. With joy we bring these gifts to God. You are blessed by God's absolute love for you. Rejoice in that love and find healing and hope. Amen.

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ is with you all!

And also with you.

Response

We are walking a path of peace, we are walking a path of peace,
We are walking a path of peace, lead us home, lead us home.  (repeat)
Psalm 146
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Mark 12: 38 - 44
As he taught, Jesus said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.

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
Rev. Lacey Brown

Musical Offering  “Count Your Many Blessings”  E. Excell, Marty Lamb, soloist

Invitation to Give

- Text the amount of your donation, with one keyword, to 919-886-4541
  General – give to CUCC’s general fund
  Pledge – give toward your pledge
- 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  “We Give Thee but Thine Own”  Cantica Laudis, 1850

We give Thee but Thine own, whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

Offering Response  “Doxology” (Old Hundredth)

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

Whether out of our scarcity or from our abundance, we pray that these gifts might offer life instead of despair, hope instead of grief, grace instead of fear. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Receiving

Hymn NCH 562 “Take My Gifts”

Benediction

Go forth nourished by the Spirit to live in gratitude and service. Amen.

Postlude “To Bless the Earth” Vulpius, 1609

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.
Copyright and licensing notifications

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” (c) 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-738843. All rights reserved.
“I Am Walking a Path of Peace” Words and Music: Janet Tissandier © Janet Tissandier. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-738843. All rights reserved.
“Take My Gifts” Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Music: Colin Gibson © 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-738843. All rights reserved.

CUCC STAFF
Pastor: Lacey Brown lacey.cucc@gmail.com
Youth & Adult Education Ministry: Śānti Matthews education.cucc@gmail.com
Communications Manager: Jeff Cole office.cucc@gmail.com
Children’s Ministry: Anne Bailey Zschau children.cucc@gmail.com
Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith sing.cucc@gmail.com
Organist: Doug Barrick music.cucc@gmail.com

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all
Hymn NCH 565 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

1 God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s earth be done: All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the grace conferred; Ours to use for home and kinsmen, and to spread the pilgrimway; From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into shattered door: Gifted by you, we turn to you Church made one. Now direct our daily labor, gospel Word. Open wide our hands in sharing generous day. Then when years on earth are over, offering up ourselves in praise; Thankful song shall lest we strive for self alone; born with talents, as we heed Christ’s ageless call, healing, teaching, and we’ve lived our human span, God, fulfill, be
1. Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

2. Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humor, laced with laughter—flavor of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

3. Take whatever I can offer—gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text “almost instantaneously.”
Gibson has served as professor at the University of Otago, as well as organist and choir director in nearby Dunedin, New Zealand.

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.
Colin Gibson, 1991
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA