Welcome

Announcements

Prelude “Deo Gratias”
F. Couperin

Call to Worship

One:
God of the open road,
God of the twisting path,
God of the narrow and upward way,
your people are gathered for worship!

Many: In this hour, give us provision for the journey,
courage and faith and compassion,
and endurance to face any hardship.
Open our eyes to see you walking beside us,
protecting us, encouraging us, loving us.

Hymn NCH 21 “God Reigns O'er All the Earth”

Opening Reflection

Jesus said, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another.” —Mark 13.2

When the temple fell it seemed the center of the world had vanished,
but the center, it turns out, is elsewhere.
When the temple fell it seemed the end of the world,
but wars and rumors have come and gone, and here we are.
They said everything changed but nothing changed.
Empires come, and pass. Stones fall.
Hate and anger are still unable to build, but only destroy.
Still some people harm; some bless.
We seek stones unfallen, but stones still fall.
Even stones are made of smoke.

Listen. Things happen, things pass;
but they don’t express God’s love for you.
That’s constant. And so is God’s invitation.

Now—before the tower of this moment falls—is the time to decide whether to be kind and how, whether to show mercy. This is the moment—unchanging—and always has been, the moment to love.

~ Time for silent reflection and prayer~
Assurance of God’s Love

God created you for this time and this place and God has given you the gift of love. If you are lost, struggling, despairing, questioning, or doubting let God’s love restore you. Things come and go. Buildings and empires will fall but love is eternal. Love never fails. 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)

Reading  Mark 13: 1 - 8 (NRSV)

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

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  Love endures  Rev. Lacey Brown

Anthem  “He Has Done Marvelous Things”  J Paul Williams, arr. Joseph M. Martin

Prayers of the People

We conclude with The Lord’s Prayer from The New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.
Invitation to Give

- **Text the amount of your donation, with one keyword, to 919-888-4541**
  - 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  “To Thee, O God, Thanks We Give”  J.S. Bach

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

In you, O God, we find refuge from our turbulent world. We work each day to bear witness to your justice through our ministries. While the journey towards true peace that lies ahead is long, our incremental steps continue to take us closer to that promised day. Renew in us the strength, faith, and courage we need to persevere so that the promised day will come when your will will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Hymn  NCH 23 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Benediction

What endures is not the edifices we build, but the work of God that we accomplish through our ministries in the name of Jesus Christ. Let us go forth from here empowered by the Holy Spirit to be God’s instruments of justice rooted in love to further the work of Jesus and to move us closer to God’s reign of peace. Amen.

Postlude  “God, That Madest Earth and Heaven”  Trad. Welsh
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
1 God reigns o’er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low, the farms and towns in death, in birth, in
golds and browns God’s grief, in mirth, in faith-ful folk in all our past and to the last, our
grace and beau-ty show. all our hopes and fears. bring God earn-est praise.

2 God reigns o’er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in rev-er-ence spoke to com-fort and our
God reigns o’er hu-man life! Our in-spi-ra-tion still. Through
God reigns o’er time and space! O’er gal-ax- y and sun, through
God reigns! Em-man-u-el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God’s

3 God reigns o’er time and space! In his-tory’s by-gone days, Christ’s
rain-bow hues—reds, yel-lows, blues—of streams and coun-try
all our dreams, we time-less years the cos-mos hears the heavenly mu-sic

4 God reigns! Em-man-u-el! God with us ev-ery day, in see God’s reign-ing will.
joy-ful bells be rung!

The author’s notes on this text describe it as a progre-
Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.
Traditional English setting.
There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;

There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty,
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faithfull, we would gladly trust God's word;

there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given,
and our lives would show thanks-giving for the goodness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was
influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a
Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the
number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA