

Large Print Bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

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Find us on Facebook



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 3, 2016

Please remember to turn off your cell phones during the Worship Service. Thank you.

Preparation Music

(Please be seated and prepare yourself for worship)

The Entrance of the Light

Welcome

Moments of Concerns and Announcements

*Ringing of the Bell

Opening Music

**All: It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it;
You spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on.**

*Opening Prayer

All: God of Grace and God of Glory, we gather again in this sacred space to honor and adore You. We are profoundly grateful for all the precious things we have received from Your benevolent hand and for Your continuing walk with us.

Now, as we worship You, we pray that all of us would be deeply aware of the presence, counsel, grace, and peace of Your Holy Spirit so that our time of adoration and praise would prepare us to continue as Your faithful disciples and Your loving witnesses.

We lift this prayer in the name of Your precious Son, Jesus

(continued)

Christ, Whose resurrection and ascension we continue to celebrate. Amen.

***Hymn: #12 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God!"**

Call to Reconciliation

Pastor: We are called to examine our faithfulness to God's covenant with us. God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weakness and shame. Let us confess our sin to almighty God.

Reconciliation Prayer

All: Eternal God, whose Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path, we recognize and confess that we have failed to respond fully to your gracious presence in our lives. Through Jesus Christ you have offered us new life, fulfillment, and the freedom to serve you. We confess that we are captive to sin, that our sin binds us with false pride, and that the wrong we do is made worse by the good we leave undone. Reconcile us to you and to all people. God of mercy, forgive all our sin and strengthen us anew for life as you intend it; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

A Moment of Silent Reflection

Kyrie # 750

**All: Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.**

Words of Assurance

Pastor: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

All: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Act of Praise..... #760
(Please stand)

**All: Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)
Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)
Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen!
Amen we praise your name, O God!**

*The Passing of the Peace

Pastor: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

All: **And also with you.**

Please share a greeting of Christian love with those sitting around you.

Children's Time

(Children in Kindergarten and younger may go to the nursery.)

Anthem: "Battle Hymn of the Republic" Men's Choir

Reading of Scripture: Psalm 30

II Kings 5:1-14

Luke 10:1-20

Sermon: "Hardly Nuclear Physics!"

***Hymn: # 472 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**

Our Morning Prayers

The Candle of Remembrance is lit in hope that the Holy Spirit would bring peace to the world. In lighting it we remember all past and present military personnel and first responders, especially those in harm's way.

Call to Prayer "Pray"

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for peace within our world_____.

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for peace within our souls_____.

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for love and unity_____;

Quiet our busy hearts, Pray___, pray___, pray___ .

Pray___, pray___, pray___.

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer,

Prayer of Our Savior (spoken)

All: **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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Our Time of Sharing

Invitation to the Offering, The Sharing of Gifts

Offering Music

*Offertory Response "We Are Giving in the Light of God" (526)

All: **We are giving in the light of God,**

We are giving in the light of God. (Repeat previous 2 lines)

We are giving, giving, we are giving, Oo,

We are giving in the light of God. (Repeat previous 2 lines)

Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (Children are welcome to receive Communion at the discretion of their parents. Gluten free wafers are found in the center of the plates of bread.)

The Invitation

Pastor: *Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

All: **This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**

Pastor: *This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.*

The Communion Prayer

Pastor: *God be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to God.**

Pastor *Let us give thanks to God Most High.*

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Pastor: *We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being.*

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor *We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."¹³ Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.*

All: Christ's death, O God, we proclaim. Christ's resurrection we declare. Christ's coming we await. Glory be to you, O God.

Pastor: *Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these*

gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

All: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Pastor: *The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.*

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Lamb of God

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Call to the Supper

Pastor: *The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.*

Sharing the Elements

Pastor: *Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you. Amen. Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. Amen*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

***Hymn #495 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”**

*The Benediction

***Benediction Response**

“Peace I Leave with You My Friends”

Refrain

Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in
 all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to
 you so you can give to oth - ers, too.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef. The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and includes the lyrics 'Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in'. The second system continues with 'all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to'. The third system concludes with 'you so you can give to oth - ers, too.' and features a first ending bracket with two measures and a second ending with one measure.

*Postlude

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Robert McKie as our worship leader today. Bob was born and raised in Winsted, Connecticut. He is a graduate of Springfield College, Andover Newton Theological School, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He served three years in the Army Transportation Corps, including a tour in Vietnam.

He retired in March 1, 2011 after 18 1/2 years as Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ, Greensburg, now with a total of 45 1/2 years as an ordained United Church of Christ minister. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Unity Township, where they are staff for three cats. Bob sings with Meredith in the Westmoreland Choral Society. He is also a passionate ferroequinologist (lover of the iron horse).

He is participating in today’s worship service along with...

The Congregation.....Disciples of Christ
 Rev. Meredith Ann Hutchison.....Pastor
 Irina Thomas.....Organist and Keyboard
 Rheba Salac.....Administrative Assistant
 Wade Anderson.....Sexton

This week, while Pastor Meredith is on retreat, Pastor Joseph Hedden is covering for emergencies. He can be reached at 412-956-5252. Pastor Meredith will return to the office on July 20.

Please pray for Allen Latherow, who is attending Re-Creation Camp at Camp Living Waters this week.

Did you know that the United Church of Christ has a history in the quest for religious freedom? In 1798 dissident preacher James O’Kelly avowed “liberty of conscience” forming the denomination known simply as “Christians”. Later these “Christian” churches merged with the Congregationalists who then in 1957 joined with the Evangelical and Reformed Churches to become the United Church of Christ.

This week: There are no meetings this week. The Consistory will meet NEXT Monday, July 11.

The office will be closed Monday, July 4th. It will be open Tuesday, July 5 and Thursday July 7 from 9AM-3PM.

Attendance for June 26: 55

Offering for June 26: \$1,982.00,
 St. Paul’s Homes: \$143.00

The Family of Ginny Driscoll wishes to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and other expressions of condolence. “Blessed are the dead who die in Christ.”

“Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors.”



From the Stillspeaking Devotional of the United Church of Christ

Plowing Ahead - Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." - Luke 9

Once, right after I graduated from seminary, a farmer asked me what this passage meant. I gave a long answer about commitment and the cost of discipleship. And then I explained that all of us look back anyway, and that God still loves us. It was an answer that would have garnered me an "A" on a theology paper in seminary.

He looked at me a moment and said, "Hmm. That's interesting. I guess I thought about it this way: when I start plowing a row in my field I pick out an object in the distance. All the way down I keep focusing on that object, and I don't lose track of it. That way, when I finally reach the end of the row, I know it will have been plowed straight."

In other words, figure out where you are heading, and stay focused.

The thing about Jesus is he doesn't stand still. He isn't a tree or fence post that doesn't move. That means that at the end of your life, when you've followed him as far as you can on this side of existence, you won't look back and see a straight line.

That's all the more reason to stay focused. Every time we look back to what we've left behind, to the distractions that want us to give up and turn back, we risk losing sight of the one we are following.

Jesus is a tricky one to follow sometimes. He moves fast, and he goes to the places we don't expect. That's all the more reason to "keep our eyes on the prize," and trust him to lead the way.

Prayer . . . God, as I set out to do my work today, help to keep me focused and help me not to look back. Amen.

*About the Author . . . Emily C. Heath is the Senior Pastor of the Congregational Church in Exeter, New Hampshire, and the author of the forthcoming *Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity**



Our Mission Project

Our summer mission project is to assemble school kits for Church World Service. Virginia Creese has made over 50 bags, so we hope that you can assemble more than one kit. Please include these items **exactly** as listed:

- One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only)
- Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter / 12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package
- One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers removed from the package
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)

July 4 Independence Day History

- Independence Day commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. In July 1776, there were approximately 2.5 million people living in the new nation. The U.S. census for 2016 is estimated at 322,762,018.
- The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence didn't occur until July 8, 1776. It was sent to the printers on July 4th.
- The original Declaration of Independence can be viewed at the National Archives, Washington D.C. It is severely faded and sits under special glass in the Rotunda for the Chambers of Freedom.