



***Henrietta United Church of Christ***

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Ministers: Everyone!

## **Order of Worship**

**10:30 AM**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 13, 2020**

**Rally Day!**

### ***WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST***

#### **GATHERING MUSIC**

John Wolfolk

*Our gathering music will begin in the moments before worship. This will give you the opportunity to prepare for worship, and to make any adjustments to volume on your computers or devices as needed.*

*You may also wish to have some bread and wine/juice – or bagel and coffee, or some other food and drink – ready ahead of time, so that we can commune together during the celebration of the Lord's Supper.*

#### **WELCOME!**

Pastor Jason

#### **CENTERING MUSIC (*in unison*)**

God prepare me to be a Sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving I'll be a living Sanctuary for You. (2x)

Adapted from Randy Scruggs and John Tompson

### ***WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S RENEWING PRESENCE***

#### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP (*one / many*)**

Pastor Martha

We gather our voices and spirits in praise.

**O God, quiet our souls so we may listen.**

We seek within our heart Your call on our lives.

**O God, quiet our minds so we may ponder Your words.**

We long to join together in person;

**However, we know You are with all of us now.**

O God, unite us together as one in worship of You.

Bring many names, beautiful and good,  
 celebrate in parable and story,  
 Holiness and glory, living, loving God.  
 Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong Mother God, working night and day,  
 planning all the wonders of Creation,  
 Setting each equation, genius at play;  
 Hail and Hosanna, strong Mother God!

Warm Father God, hugging every child,  
 feeling all the strains of human living,  
 Caring and forgiving till we're reconciled;  
 Hail and Hosanna, warm Father God!

Old aching God, grey with endless care,  
 calmly piercing evil's new disguises,  
 Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair;  
 Hail and Hosanna, old aching God!

Young, growing God, eager on the move,  
 saying no to falsehood and unkindness,  
 Crying out for justice, giving all you have;  
 Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,  
 joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
 Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home;  
 Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

*Words and music by Carlton Young (1989)*

**\*PRAYER OF RENEWAL** (*one / many*)

Pastor Jason

*Forgiving God, we confess that we struggle to forgive one another.*

**We resist forgiveness, for holding a grudge seems easier. Vengeance is more tempting.**

*However, You have forgiven us, and called us into the hard work of forgiving those who sin against us, in the ways we still sin against one another.*

**Help us to hold ourselves accountable, to do right where we can, and to make the initial steps in seeking forgiveness and forgiving others. Help**

**us to know we are not alone, and grant us the wisdom to know the resources that can help us in this journey.**

In the name of Christ, who forgives us all, we pray.

**Amen.**

**\*WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE** (*one / many*)

Pastor Jason

The peace of Christ is with you. God knows you and loves you for who you truly are. God knows your heart, and that you long to do right. Trust in God's ways and show mercy. Pursue peace, love, and forgiveness. You are not alone. You are loved and carried by God. Go and share the good news, loving and forgiving one another.

**Alleluia and amen.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME AND BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

Pastor Martha

***WE MEET AT CHRIST'S TABLE***

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Pastor Martha

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Pastor Jason

**UNISON COMMUNION SONG**

**"As We Gather at Your Table"**

As we gather at your table, as we listen to Your Word,  
Help us know, O God, your presence, let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
Teach us through this holy banquet, how to make Love's victory known.

*Words by Carl P. Daw, Jr., (1989) Tune: The Sacred Harp (1844)*

**SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP**

*Jesus used the ordinary food of his time to remind his friends of their unity with him and their covenant with God. As you partake of your own simple food and drink, you are invited to remember Christ's love and forgiveness, to give thanks for his sacrifice, and to ponder your part in God's unfolding world.*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*Adapted from Rev. Alydia Smith, United Church of Canada*

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the**

**visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to feed as we have been fed, to forgive as we have been forgiven, to love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

Catie Sentiff, soloist

**PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*one / many*)

Pastor Jason

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Please greet your neighbors in the spirit of Christ's love and peace by sharing messages of peace in the comments in our broadcast.*

**SUNG RESPONSE** "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place" .

There's a spirit of love in this place, there's a spirit of love in this place.  
You can't see it, but it's there, just as precious as the air.  
There's a spirit of love in this place.  
O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.  
O alleluia, sing alleluia! There's a spirit of love in this place

*Words and Music by Mark Miller*

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S GOOD NEWS**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Matthew 18: 21-35

Tracy Meyer

**MESSAGE**

"The House of the Rising Son"

Pastor Jason

**HYMN**

"I, The Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)"

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.  
I, who make the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright,  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you You lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you You lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you You lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

*Words and Music by Daniel Schutte (1981)*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor Martha

*During our prayer time today, you will be asked to lift prayers aloud from your own space, or by sharing them as comments in our broadcast. We will not be able to read them during our service, but know that God hears them, always.*

## ***WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE***

## **INVITATION TO GRATEFUL GIVING**

Pastor Jason

*Our giving today, and our gratitude to God, cannot be shared in person. But, after worship, you are invited to go online to make your gift supporting the ministries of this church. You may do this at [henriettaucc.org](http://henriettaucc.org), scrolling down to the "Online Donation" button on the right hand side. Gifts may also be mailed to the church. We invite you as well to pick up the phone and reach out to someone who may be feeling alone and forgotten, or to let the pastors know of any special pastoral needs. In this difficult time, your support is more crucial than ever to our ministries of welcome and inclusion.*

## **\* SONG OF PRAISE (*in unison*)**

Praise God, who welcomes us with grace, who blesses every time and place, whose Christ shows every person's worth, whose Spirit gives us all new birth!

Tune and Text adapted from Geneva Psalter (1551)

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Let us pray together. . .*)**

**Most Holy God, may our gifts help lead us into Your ways and into the paths of righteousness. May what we offer today help lead your people to the places of still waters and green pastures, places of restoration. And may what we share remind all Your people that we are never alone, that You travel with us through all the difficulties of life, leading us and loving us. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Jason

**SENDING HYMN**            “Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come,  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me, God's word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

Text: John Newton (1779); Tune: American traditional melody, arr. Edwin O. Excell (1900)

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor Jason

**SENDING MUSIC**

John Wolfolk

***WE RETURN TO THE WORLD  
RENEWED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD'S SPIRIT  
As our worship ends, our service begins.***

*Portions of today's worship were adapted from **Worship Resources for September 13th, 2020 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**; liturgy created by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, [rev-o-lution.org](http://rev-o-lution.org).*

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