



Henrietta United Church of Christ

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Pastor: Rev. Martha Koenig Stone

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Church Administrator: Andrea Folan

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Ministers: Everyone!

Order of Worship

10:00 AM

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 14, 2024

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

CENTERING MUSIC

“Draw the Circle Wide”

Dawn Pixley, Cantor

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side.

Draw the circle wide.

God the stillpoint of the circle, ‘round whom all creation turns;

Nothing lost, but held forever in God’s gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side.

Draw the circle wide.

Text and Music: Gordon Light, 1994.

WELCOME

Pastor Martha

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

We come to meet God and neighbor

at the intersection of love and faithfulness.

Here praise and prayer join hands;

our voices unite in hymns and sighs.

May God speak tenderly to our hearts in this hour of worship,

And may the God of all creation show us the path to peace.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Now Is the Time Approaching”

Now is the time approaching, by prophets long foretold,
when all shall dwell together, secure and manifold.

Let war be learned no longer, let strife and tumult cease,
all earth a blessed garden that God shall tend in peace.

Let all that now divides us remove and pass away,
like mists of early morning before the blaze of day.
Let all that now unites us more sweet and lasting prove,
a closer bond of union, in blessed lands of love.

O long-expected dawning, come with your cheering ray!
Yet shall the promise beckon and lead us not a stray.
O sweet anticipation! It cheers the watchers on
to pray, and hope, and labor till Christ's new realm is come.

Text: Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; alt. Tune: WEBB, George J. Webb, 1837.

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S RENEWING PRESENCE

+PRAYER OF RENEWAL (*one / many*)

Gracious God, as we come to worship today, we confess our failings and weaknesses, our doubts and our questions. Hear us now, as we turn to you for forgiveness and strength...(silent prayer)...**Fill us with grace and power to be your disciples: to be faithful, to be true, to be filled with love, and to serve your people. Amen.**

WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE (*one / many*) – 2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV

“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: **everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**” **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM	“In Jesus’ Name (God of Possible)” <i>By Katy Nichole; Arr. by Grant Wall</i>	Dawn Pixley
CHILDREN’S TIME		Pastor Martha

PASSING OF THE PEACE (*one / many*)

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

*Please greet one another in the spirit of Christ’s love and peace!
Messages of peace may be shared in the comments in our broadcast.*

SUNG RESPONSE

I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river,
I’ve got peace like a river in my soul. (2x)

I’ve got love like an ocean, I’ve got love like an ocean
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul. (2x)

African American Spiritual

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 85:8-13

Lily S

MESSAGE

“Meeting in the Middle”

Pastor Martha

***HYMN OF AFFIRMATION**

“We Are Your People”

We are your people: Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us Christ to our neighbors of every culture and place.

Joined in community, treasured and fed,
may we discover gifts in each other, willing to lead and be led.

Rich in diversity, help us to live
closer than neighbors, open to strangers, able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition, help us to see
in all life's changing, where Christ is leading, where our best efforts should be.

Give, as we venture, justice and care
(peaceful, insisting, risking, resisting), wisdom to know when and where.

Spirit, unite us, make us, by grace,
willing and ready, Christ's living body, loving the whole human race.

Text: Brian Wren, 1973; ref. 1993. Tune: WHITFIELD, John Wilson, 1975. Words © 1975; Music © 1980; Hope Publishing Co.

INVITATION TO GRATEFUL GIVING

OFFERTORY

“Faith of Our Fathers” *by Henri F. Nemy*

Laurie Fox

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

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise;
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, by every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; alt. Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, 1623; Harm. R. Vaughan Williams 1906 © Oxford University Press.

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(in unison)*

O God, you call us to be generous: not when all the bills are paid, not when we have everything we need, not when we see our way clear. You call us to be generous now, in this present moment, trusting in your abundance. And so we give freely, as we have received freely, and we love fully as we have been fully loved. May our gifts bring healing and peace to the world you love. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

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.

SUNG RESPONSE

Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying; Send us love, send us power,
send us grace.

Words and Music: Ken Medema, 1973; © 1973 Hope Publishing Company.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric Falla

*SENDING HYMN

"Christ Will Come Again"

Christ will come again, God's justice to complete,
to reap the fields of time and sift the weeds from wheat:
then let us passionately care for peace and justice here on earth,
and evil's rage restrain with love, till Christ shall come again.

Christ will come again, and life shall be complete.
The waters from the throne shall wash the nations' feet:
then let us passionately care for health and wholeness here on earth,
and ease our neighbor's pain with love, till Christ shall come again.

Christ will come again, and joy shall be complete,
as flames of lightning love bedeck the judgment seat:
then let us passionately share the whole great gospel here on earth,
until all things attain their end, when Christ shall come again.

Text: Brian Wren, 1987. Tune: IDA, by Joan Collier Fogg, 1987. © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Martha

POSTLUDE

"A Festal Flourish" by John S. Dixon

Laurie Fox

*Please exit quietly, so that those who remain may hear the Postlude.
You are invited to stay for goodies and conversation at the Fellowship Hour after worship!*

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