

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 22, 2020

PRELUDE

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Here I am to Worship* – Michael W. Smith Darin Jellison

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD’S HOUSE

God, this year has been a year of challenges. As we gather today to glorify and worship you, we cannot ignore the fact that the feelings of isolation and uncertainty still linger in our hearts. But grant us the patience to endure these hardships and help us to remember that you are a God who loves us, cares for us, heals us, and forgives us. Help us to enjoy this time of Thanksgiving by truly giving thanks for all of the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Give us peace. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: Rejoice, You Pure in Heart (verses 1, 4, 5)

1 Rejoice, O pure in heart,
rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

4 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest,
the pilgrims reach their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. [Refrain]

5 Praise God, who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
one God forevermore. [Refrain]

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: A rich feast awaits those who call upon the Lord.

People: God offers to us all the bounty of His love.

Leader: How we have thirsted for hope and peace!

People: How we have longed for joy and love!

Leader: Know that God continually surrounds us with His patience and

persistence.

People: Even though we have not produced the “fruits” of hope that God seeks, God still forgives and heals our weakness.

Leader: Rejoice! Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

People: We will turn our lives again to the Lord, to serve God and reward His patience.

Unison: AMEN.

REJOICING IN GOD’S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Please take this moment for silent confession and reflection.

Unison: Holy God, we will be honest: this is really hard. It is really hard to wear masks, to avoid public gatherings, to spend so much time watching screens. We’re losing patience and we’re losing hope and we’re losing our grip on faith. We’re caught between the selfishness of wanting to do whatever we want without regard for others, and wanting to be helpful and generous. Please help us. Help us to lean on you and each other when things get hard and when we get depressed. Remind us every day that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Encourage our hearts, and help us to be your people, to the best of our ability in these strange days. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who is with us always. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Christ died for our sins. He made full atonement for us. Listen for his message today, feel his love in your heart.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we have the promise of eternal life.

We are his children! We are his disciples! We are forgiven!

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Old Testament: Isaiah 40: 27-31

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-8

New Testament: James 1:2-6

Special Music: *Even If – MercyMe*

Darin Jellison

THE MESSAGE: God, Grant Me Patience...NOW!

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;

**He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father
almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.**

Amen.

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

Silent Prayers/ Spoken Prayers/ The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

**Unison: Merciful Lord, you have provided each of us with many similar, yet
unique gifts. Thank you, for the talents and abilities of the people within this
congregation. We are a blessed people! Now, we unite as one body to share in
this worshipful act of the offering. Giving is such a joy-filled experience
because you have given us so much! Thank you, for this opportunity to support
the transformation of people's spiritual lives through the ministry and mission
of this body of Christ. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

THE SENDING FORTH

Leader: It is not enough to acclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

**We have been given a new week to make His kingdom a reality among us and
to share His message with our neighbors by our words and actions. We do this**

by first making time in our lives to listen to the special message His spirit has for each of us, and then by living as He lived: for others in love and service. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord with patience and humility. Amen

CLOSING HYMN: What a Fellowship

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms; Leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

MEDITATION

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard today will produce in us the fruits of a good life. We acknowledge that being fruitful means pruning. A branch that bears no fruit will be lopped off. And a branch that is snipped back so that the energy flowing through it will be directed to fruitfulness, not just greenery. Prune my life, Father. Help me cut back what might be good, but not best, help me cut out what takes more energy than it produces. I am often greedy to pack my life with more, because I falsely believe that more is better. Help me cut back so that I may be more fruitful; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

POSTLUDE

*Special thanks to Chuck and Karen Talboo for leading us in worship this morning.
Thanks to Darin Jellison for sharing his gift of song and to Darin and
Noah Jellison for running our live stream camera.
Blessings!*