



~ Welcome Visitors! ~

Guide to the bulletin: An asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal next to your pew chair.

Children: Children are always welcome here. We know youth grow – in the love of God and the love of others – when they have opportunities to worship in community. After the Message for All, children are invited to participate in Sunday School, sit by their family in the sanctuary or at the Prayer Ground. There are a variety of quiet activities and fidgets the youth (and adults!) can do available by the sanctuary doors. There is also a Prayer Ground set up at the front of the sanctuary. There are several quiet activities prepared for children. We know many of us need to wiggle a bit to be comfortable. Kids do too!!! Adults are welcome to sit in this area as well! #ChildofGod. You and/or your children are welcome to get up during the service to select something to do.

Blessing of the Animals: in the tradition of St Francis

A special focus for this service is a public expression of the bond we have with animals. Through the service we will be able to make them an integral part of our worship life and relationships. To bless is more than an expression of goodwill or caring. To bless is impart God's power in person! The blessing of each animal, by name, means that health, healing and life are being mediated from God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partners. The blessing is adapted from the Rev. Barbara Allen, Chaplain of Lort Smith Animal Hospital, Australia.

GATHERING TOGETHER

For reflection: *Meister Eckhart, a thirteenth century Christian mystic says,*

'Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things.
Every single creature is full of God, and is a book about God.
Every creature is a word of God.
If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature- even a caterpillar-
I would never have to prepare a sermon so full of God is every creature'

Prelude

Welcome and Community Connections

Introit

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Lutkin

***Call to Worship¹** (inspired by Psalm 106)

One: Who can express the mighty work of the Holy One?

Many: We who gather praise the Holy One for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Who can proclaim the redemptive acts of the Holy One?

Many: We who gather praise the Holy One for justice and righteousness. God shows favor and mercy toward the people.

One: Who can declare the wondrous and awesome deeds of the Holy One?

Many: We who gather praise the Holy One! Praise the Holy One!

*** Opening Prayer**

Holy Love, your presence is our sanctuary. We gather at your invitation to be in community with you and one another. Enliven our hearts. Nourish our spirits. Encourage our souls. Expand our minds. We seek truth and righteousness. We thirst to give and receive compassion and grace. Let us feast on your word, release our concerns in prayer, and offer our praise in thanksgiving. Be glorified among us, O God, our Redeemer, Host, and Friend. Amen.

***Hymn**

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

NCH 17, vss 1-4

HEARING THE WORD

First Bible Reading

Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-7

Anthem

We Will Stand Together

Lyrics: Angela Lupino; Nimrod tune by Edward Elgar

Second Bible Reading

Exodus 20:8-17

Message for All

Prayer of Jesus

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.

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Reflection

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

Benediction

Dave Lindorff

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Kris at 608-438-6307. We will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: pastorkris@memorialucc.org and/or pastorpeter@memorialucc.org

¹ *Those Who Have Been Invited: Service Prayers for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Year A* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

BLESSING of the ANIMALS

Blessing of the Animals

Our blessing today will offer you two ways to celebrate the animals and pets in our lives:

- *Pets who are in worship today will be invited up to receive a blessing from Pastor Kris*
- *If you brought a photo of your pet or a stuffed animal, you may bring the item up to receive a blessing and pass the blessing on when you return home*

Closing Prayer to Remember fur, feathered, finned, skinned friends who have died

All: We remember our animal companions who are no longer with us physically. We give thanks for the gifts they gave us and the variety of ways they enriched and blessed our lives. We are confident that our Creator continues to care for them.

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

***Song for Going Out**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

NCH 31

***Benediction**

***Postlude**