FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

11:00 AM

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Margaret LaMotte Torrence

PRELUDE *Joyful* Text by Henry van Dyke
(Carrie Mills, Matthew Jarvis, Steven Phillips) Music by Steven Phillips

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Isaiah 42:1-9, CEV
Pat Higgins

God the Lord says—

the one who created the heavens,
the one who stretched them out,
the one who spread out the earth and its offspring,
the one who gave breath to its people
and life to those who walk on it—

I, the Lord, have called you for a good reason.
I will grasp your hand and guard you,
and give you as a covenant to the people,
as a light to the nations,

to open blind eyes, to lead the prisoners from prison,
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

I am the Lord;
that is my name;
I don't hand out my glory to others
or my praise to idols.

The things announced in the past—look—they've already happened,

but I'm declaring new things.
Before they even appear,
I tell you about them.

* *Those who are able will please stand.*

*** HYMN 32** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Ellacombe

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Steven Phillips

When we have fashioned idols of our own desire
or worshiped the temples of our own tradition,
Lord, have mercy.

(moment of silence)

When we have denied your invitation to the banquet of love and justice,
or failed to extend the invitation to others,
Christ, have mercy.

(moment of silence)

When we have clothed ourselves with worry rather than joy—
or failed to be gentle, knowing you are near,
Lord, have mercy.

(moment of silence)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*** THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Margaret LaMotte Torrence

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 4:1-9

SERMON *"Think on This"* Margaret LaMotte Torrence

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From *A Brief Statement of Faith,* PC(USA)
Pat Higgins

I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

ANTHEM *In the Singing* Text by Shirley E. Murray
(Carrie Mills, Matthew Jarvis, Steven Phillips) Music by Carlton Young

Verse 1
In the singing, in the silence,
In the hands expectant, open,
In the blessing in the breaking,
In the presence at this table.

Chorus
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Verse 2
In the question, in the answer,
In the moment of acceptance,
In the heart's cry, in the healing,
In the circle of your people. **(Chorus)**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The bread of God that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world—
that bread is to be found at this table—and in the company of God's people.
If you are looking for Jesus, draw close.
We come, at his invitation.

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Author of life,
In every chapter of your people's story
You blessed us that we might be a blessing.
You asked us to tend your world.

And every time we wandered from your way,
you sent prophets and poets and priests
to remind us of our holy charge.
When still we would not listen, your mercy took flesh.
You came to dwell among us in fearless love.

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

In the fullness of time, your fierce and tender love took flesh.
You did not come in wrath, but as the Holy One among us.
You bent down to us. You healed us, and fed us—
until the scandal of your love was more than we could bear
and we handed you over, not knowing what we did.

Breath of Life,
move now in this place; make known your power in this simple meal.
As we taste the bread and lift the cup, grant us courage.

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

We pray as he taught us:

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.

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Faithful God,
You have fed us at your table and bound us to each other.
Now send us into the world to spend and share the grace we have tasted.

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING Steven Phillips

***HYMN 295** *Go to the World!* Sine Nomine

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Alleluia. Alleluia.

***BENEDICTION** Margaret LaMotte Torrence

POSTLUDE *Fanfare for Organ* Ronald Arnatt

Today's Prayer of Confession is adapted from Standing in the Gap, written by Rev. Dr. Bob Gross, OCC, pastor at Lake Avenue United Church of Christ, Elyria, OH and posted on the United Church of Christ website.

We are grateful for the vocal talents of Matt Jarvis and elder Carrie Mills, both of whom teach at Booker Middle School in choral music and drama respectively.