

SOMETHING ABOUT US

Our Mission Committee report of 2005 included this statement, which continues to resonate as we consider who we are as a congregation:

"We share a sense that God has called Mount Auburn to preach and teach a liberating, progressive theology as we design our worship and educational programs. We are part of a tradition that is "always reforming," and expect God to speak not just to us but also to other people, to different traditions and to each new generation. We value process theology, an open-ended theology, focused on God who is a living, creative, dynamic being, not captured by scriptures or our historical creeds. As one joins this congregation, we prefer not to ask, "Do you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior?" Rather, we prefer to ask, "Will you serve God as revealed in the life and ministry of Jesus?" We find the compelling reference to God for us was the life and ministry of Jesus who differs from us in faithfulness, but not in human experience."

Everyone is welcome to worship at Mt. Auburn

A special welcome is extended to students from the University, the College Conservatory of Music, and the hospitals. You are most cordially invited to regard Mt. Auburn as your church home during your period of study here.

We welcome and encourage children of all ages to worship with us. We also offer children's educational opportunities during the class year. **Children attend worship with their families.** All young children are welcome! Parents are encouraged to talk with the Pastors for more details.

Encounters Educational Programs

Our Encounters educational programs offer learning opportunities for adults on Sunday mornings before worship in seasonal series and one-time sessions. Check the weekly announcements for the current schedule.

About our Inclusive Language

Following Christ's example of radical hospitality, we seek to use language in worship that allows us to grasp that all persons are created in the image of God. The language we choose is a reflection of our understanding that all names for God are metaphors, of the richness of scripture, and of the fullness of God. In order to expand our ways of understanding God; while we usually sing in the traditional language of the church, we seek to use a multitude of God's many names in liturgy. Jesus Christ, as not only God in human form, but an historical person, is referred to with appropriate gender, but often spoken of in other, expansive terms.

MOUNT AUBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 1, 2021

11:00 a.m.

APPROACHING GOD

We begin each time of worship by intentionally seeking awareness of God's presence within this community of faith. The prelude signals our entrance into a space and time set aside for worship, and provides us an opportunity to mentally shift our focus. We speak a few words of welcome, letting everyone who joins us in person or online know that their presence is important. Often there is an announcement or two of significant events in the life of the community, because our worship is connected to how we learn, serve, and socialize together. We continue to orient ourselves toward God through the call to worship and the opening hymn, which invite us all to participate - not just those leading! The final part of our approach to God is the confession, assurance of pardon, and passing of the peace, a cycle in which we speak honestly our faults and failings, hear God's words of grace and forgiveness, and in turn offer peace to one another: a first move toward extending God's grace and forgiveness to all we meet.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Stacey Midge

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeana Lawson

Worship begins as people gather:

Through handshakes in the foyer

In silent prayers said in passing

Through smiles, laughter and song

God invites all to gather in this sacred place

To remember who and whose we are

In the name of the One who creates, redeems and sustains

Let us come and worship the Holy One

***HYMN #510 "We Gather Here in Jesus' Name"**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Rebekah Nolt

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of unending Love and Grace,

In your presence we confess

**That we don't always recognize your image in ourselves and others
And sometimes we fail living into what you created us to be.
You know how often we don't get it right,
Or wander from the path
Or waste our gifts
Or forget your love for us.
Help us remember who we are.
Help us amend where we have caused harm.
Help us delight in your love
And abide in your ways.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***SONG OF RESPONSE "Bringing Our Questions"**

**Bringing our questions and bringing our doubts
Here with each other we open our hearts
These and our longings we offer to you
O Mender Of All That Unravels**

RECEIVING FROM GOD

After approaching God and taking the time to orient ourselves to the space and time of worship, we enter into a time of receiving from God through Word and Sacrament. We hear the words of Scripture read and interpreted through preaching, both for adults and children. We affirm our faith together, receiving and sharing in the witness of the wider Church. On Communion Sundays, we share the Lord's Supper, which invites us to remember Jesus through bread and cup in addition to words. It is called "communion" because it reminds us of the faith we share in common and the union we have with each other and with Christ. When there is a baptism, it also falls in this section of worship, because in our tradition baptism is a sign of the gracious action of God in a person's life, no matter their age. Through Word and through the Sacraments, we are comforted, challenged, sustained, and nurtured toward growth individually and as a community.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 51:1-12

Jeana Lawson

TIME WITH THE YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Rev. Rebekah Nolt

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 4:1-16

Rev. Stacey Midge

SERMON

Rev. Stacey Midge

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

RESPONDING TO GOD

When we have received from God, we respond in gratitude, committing ourselves anew to following in the example of Jesus. There are many opportunities to live out this gratitude beyond worship, but we begin here, with an invitation for all of us to give of the gifts we've been given for the nurturing of this particular community of faith and for mission in the world. There is an obvious financial component to this, but it is but one part of how we are invited to share our gifts and participate in God's work of love, justice, and peace. During this time, someone offers their musical gifts as one such example of how we give back to God and the community from what we've been given. We also join together in prayer for the people within this faith community, those we know, and the world around us, giving the gift of our intention and attention.

We often close these prayers by saying the Lord's Prayer together, joining our voices with the voices of Jesus' followers since the very beginning of Christian faith. As we come to the end of our time of worship, we sing a hymn, often one that sends us back out into the world, hopefully renewed by this time and ready to live into the best of who God has created us to be. Finally, we close with a benediction - a blessing to carry with us on the way until we meet again.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, our Mother, our Holy Parent,
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.**

HYMN #320 *"The Church of Christ in Every Age"*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Stacey Midge

POSTLUDE

LOCAL – GLOBAL MINISTRIES AND PROGRAMS

Supported by Mount Auburn

- Alcoholics Anonymous • Amos Project • Bethany House Cincinnati Brass Fellowship
Cincinnati Scholar House Citizens United For Action (CUFA)
Classics Club Book Discussion Group • Crossport
GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) • Heartland Trans Wellness
Immigrant and Refugee Law Center • Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center
- League of Women Voters •
 - Mass Action for Black Liberation
- More Light Presbyterians • MORTAR
- October Festival Choir
- One Great Hour of Sharing • Open Stacks Book Club
- PAAD (Presbyterian Action Against the Death Penalty) • Presbyterian World Mission
- PFLAG (Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
- Safe & Supported • Saint George Food Pantry • Sierra Club
- Soteni • Sweet Cheeks
- That All May Freely Serve • Treehouse Cincinnati •
- Woman's City Club



STAY CONNECTED TO MT. AUBURN

- Visit our website: www.mtauburnpresby.org,
 - Check us out on Facebook @ Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
 - Church office: office@mtauburnpresby.org, 513.281.5945
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MOUNT AUBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Presbytery of Cincinnati Synod of the Covenant Presbyterian Church, USA

OUR STAFF

PastorStacey Midge
Pastoral Resident.....Rebekah Nolt
Director of Music Ministry.....Christian Miller
Organists.....Beth Troendly, Earl Apel
Administration Manager.....Nori Muro
Resident Caretaker.....Dan Davidson
Pastor Emeritus.....Harold Porter

OUR SESSION

• Faye Burdick, Clerk <u>Class of 2021</u> Eric Burgmann Amy Grady Jeana Lawson Pete Tuff	• David Chalk, Treasurer <u>Class of 2022</u> Marlene Muse Sequoia Powers-Griffin Susan Thomas Sara Renner	• David Simon, Administrator <u>Class of 2023</u> Dave Simon Judy Cunningham Sara Bick Julia Malkin
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OUR DEACONS

Mark Schuller and Elizabeth Marsh-Singh, Co-Moderators

<u>Class of 2021</u> Rob Biddinger Pat Basler Deb Carle Heather Graden	<u>Class of 2022</u> Earl Apel Dale Didier Linda Vaccariello	<u>Class of 2023</u> Elizabeth Marsh-Singh Mark Schuller Bonnie Bohn Rick Sowash Patty Muhlemann
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OUR COMMITTEES & SESSION LIAISONS

Congregational Engagement.....Elizabeth Marsh-Singh, Sandee Ernst
Earth Care Leadership.....Pat Timm
Education and Spiritual NurtureSara Renner
Finance and Stewardship.....Sara Bick, Susan Ingmire
Justice Seeking.....Linda Ford, Sequoia Powers-Griffin
Nominations.....Pete Tuff, Amy Grady
Operations.....Eric Burgmann
Outreach.....Lynn Hailey Marlene Muse
Personnel.....Jeana Lawson and David Simon
Worship.....Van Ackerman, Julie Malkin

We Are a More Light Congregation

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