



Celtic Evensong & Communion

September 16, 2018

5:30 p.m.

Community of Faith United Methodist Church

Welcome. To prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering and that you turn off cell phones. Offering plates are not passed through the congregation at this service but are located at the entrances to the church and the offering will benefit the Food Distribution Ministry. We are aware that persons here come from several faith traditions and are delighted for your presence. The mixture of faith traditions that makes up this community are cherished. We are glad you are here.

PRELUDE

GATHERING THOUGHTS

"The Silence in Us"

Rachel Naomi Remen

"Perhaps the most important thing we bring to another person is the silence in us, not the sort of silence that is filled with unspoken criticism or hard withdrawal. The sort of silence that is a place of refuge, of rest, or acceptance of someone as they are. We are all hungry for this other silence. It is hard to find. In its presence we can remember something beyond the moment, a strength on which to build a life. Silence is a place of great power and healing."

OPENING PRAYER

St. Columba

Kindle in our hearts, O God,
the flame of love that never ceases,
that it may burn in us, giving light to others.
May we shine forever in your temple,
Set on fire with your eternal light,
Even your Son, Jesus Christ,
Our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness

The Faith We Sing #2197

Words by Jan Struther, Music is an Irish folk melody

A PRAYER FOR THE EVENING

J. Philip Newell

You are above me O God
You are beneath
You are in air
You are in earth
You are beside me
You are within.
O God of heaven,
You have made your home on earth
In the broken body of Creation ...
Kindle within me a love for you in all things.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 7:24-37

An immigrant's daughter is delivered

²⁴ Jesus left that place and went into the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know that he had entered a house, but he couldn't hide. ²⁵ In fact, a woman whose young daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard about him right away. She came and fell at his feet. ²⁶ The woman was Greek, Syrophenician by birth. She begged Jesus to throw the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He responded, "The children have to be fed first. It isn't right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁸ But she answered, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

²⁹ "Good answer!" he said. "Go on home. The demon has already left your daughter." ³⁰ When she returned to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

A deaf man is healed

³¹ After leaving the region of Tyre, Jesus went through Sidon toward the Galilee Sea through the region of the Ten Cities. ³² Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly speak, and they begged him to place his hand on the man for healing. ³³ Jesus took him away from the crowd by himself and put his fingers in the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ Looking into heaven, Jesus sighed deeply and said, "*Ephphatha*," which means, "Open up." ³⁵ At once, his ears opened, his twisted tongue was released, and he began to speak clearly.

³⁶ Jesus gave the people strict orders not to tell anyone. But the more he tried to silence them, the more eagerly they shared the news. ³⁷ People were overcome with wonder, saying, "He does everything well! He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who can't speak."

Silence is observed after the reading

REFLECTION

MUSIC

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

Thanks to Thee, God,
Who brought me from yesterday to the beginning of today,
Everlasting joy, to earn for my soul with good intent.
And for every gift of peace Thou bestows on me,
my thoughts, my words, my deeds, my desires I dedicate to Thee.
I supplicate Thee, I beseech Thee, to keep me from offence,
and to shield me tonight, for the sake of Thy wounds with Thine offering of grace.

Lord, in these times, when we fear we are losing hope or feel that our efforts are futile, let us see in our hearts and minds the image of your resurrection and let that be our source of courage and strength. With that, and in your company, help us to face challenges and struggles against all that is born of injustice. God, kindle within our hearts today a flame of love for our neighbors.....

For our foes... For our family... For the brave... For the cowardly...

For those who have great need ... For those who have great vision...

We ask not for what we want but for what you know we need, as we offer ourselves for you and to you through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

*During the instrumental, the hymn, and at any time hereafter,
you are welcome to come forward to light a votive candle as a symbol of your prayer.
Tapers and votive candles are in front of the chancel step as well as behind the chairs.
Please free to go to any of these places to light a candle.*

HYMN

Lord, Make Us Servants

O Waly Waly

1. Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
2. Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
3. Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
4. May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
5. And when we die, we are re - born through death's dark
hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
night to end - less day. Lord, make us ser - vants of your
give; where there is strife, may we make one.
light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - giv'n.
peace to wake at last in heav - en's light.

THE GRACE

Luke 6:35-38a

Love your enemies, and do good, expecting nothing in return. Be merciful, just as God is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Amen.

THE PEACE

Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also, with you.**

*The ministers and people greet one another in the name of the Lord.
After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.*

HOLY COMMUNION

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to thank you and praise you, giver of life, beloved of the poor and forgotten. We praise you for the prophets who in spite of persecution spoke your challenging word. We praise you that in Christ you chose to be born in a stable and revealed to poor shepherds. We praise you for Mary, first witness of the resurrection; and for all the women and men who have been trusted and empowered by you. With all the unremembered, outcast, with the poor and needy, with the trusting and hopeful in all the ages we praise you saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and Might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest

We praise you for Jesus Christ, born of peasant parents, friend of lepers and tax collectors, who chose a life given up for others. On the night before he died he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them saying: *“This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”* After supper he took a cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to them saying: *“This is my life-blood poured out for you. Do this to remember me.”* So, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Come now Holy Spirit of God. Come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that in sharing this feast we may become the body of Christ. Break down walls of selfishness and fear and bring us all to the new age in which none go hungry and all are fed. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory now and forever. ***Amen, Amen, Amen.***

THE LORDS 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 trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

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 INVITATION

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

So, come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;
You who have been here often and you who have not been here for a long time;
You who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come.
It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

THE GIVING OF BREAD & CUP

*All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion.
Gluten free bread is available by asking the celebrants.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have put your life into our hands;
now we put our lives into yours.
Take us, renew us and remake us.
What we have been is past; what we shall be,
through you, still awaits us. Lead us on.
Take us with you. Amen.

BLESSING

Paraphrase of Henri Frederic Amiel

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who are traveling the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind, and the blessing of God be with you always. Amen.

HYMN

Take O Take Me As I Am
Words & Music: John L. Bell

Worship & Song #3119

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

DISMISSAL

Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

POSTLUDE



Welcome to this time of worship. Community of Faith holds a Celtic Evensong Service the third Sunday of each month. Contemplative worship experiences are offered twice a month in our neighborhood as our neighbors at Epiphany Episcopal hold a service the first Sunday of the month at 5:30 PM.

Sunday worship at Community of Faith is at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. All are welcome.

Celebrant: The Rev. Rob Vaughn

Musicians: Mary Ann East; *First Light Ensemble* consisting of Sharyn Byer (flute), Claire Smith (flute) and Alexandra Molnar-Suhajda (harp)

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.
Do justly, now. Love mercy, now.
Walk humbly, now.
You are not obligated to complete the work,
but neither are you free to abandon it.
The Talmud

Ministers - The Entire Congregation

Music Director: Mary Ann East

Community of Faith United Methodist Church

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