

All Newton UCC Worship



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 4, 2024

Prelude

“Prelude”

G. Dyson

Community Welcome

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 78:23-29)

One: The Almighty One commands the skies and opens the doors of heaven.

All: **Holy Spirit, rain down on us manna, the grain of heaven!**

One: The Great Divine sent our ancestors the bread of angels in abundance.

All: **You cause the east wind to blow in the heavens; you lead out the south wind.**

One: By our gathered faith we know of God’s generosity.

All: **Today, O God, we eat of your grace and blessing and are well filled for you
give us exactly what we crave!**

One: Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

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

All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect our rays, Stars and angels sing
around you, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow,
flashing sea, Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed, Well spring of the joy of living, ocean
depth of happy rest! Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you; Teach us how
to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; Boundless love is reigning
o’er us, reconciling race and clan. Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of
strife, Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of Grace, forgive us our debts. You depend on us to be your witness, but we are too embarrassed to testify about your faithfulness. We are often too busy to recognize your blessings all around us. We are neither anxious nor ready to sit and reflect deeply on Holy Scriptures. Holy Creator, extend your grace and mercy as we ask your forgiveness. In order to receive your forgiveness, we know that we need to forgive everyone who has offended us. Help us to hold nothing against anyone, so that we can be open to your infinite blessings. Set us free to live fully in you, and to love all unreservedly. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Reconciliation

One: As humans we know that we are fallible. As God's beloved creation we know that we are forgiven. May we always find hope in God's infinite faith and grace.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer Response From All That Dwell below the Skies (vs 1)

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, by every tongue Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reading

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Reading

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

Reflection

"Love; together"

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our God, 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.

Hymn

“United and Join Your Cheerful Songs”

United and join your cheerful songs, with angels round the throne; Ten thousand thousand are their tongues, yet all their joys are one.

This is the way the church should strive, in harmony below; As members of one body live, one Sovereign shall you know.

Worthy the Lamb, the angels say, to be exalted thus; Amen, amen the saints reply, the Lamb was slain for us.

Assist us, all above the sky, on earth and on the seas; United and raise God’s honors high, in hymns of endless praise.

Communion

Invitation (adapted from a piece by Mark Burrows)

Stories of Remembrance and Consecration of the Elements (adapted from Maren Tirbassi’s communion liturgy for 9-5-21)

Holy God, bless every bread near the mouth of any one of your children so that it becomes the strength and hope and holiness each of us needs. Bless the small plastic cup, the single grape, or the beautiful chalice – and every glass and grape in between – that reminds us that we can never spill your love and we always and in all places drink your healing. Amen.

Words of Institution (from I Cor. 11:24)

One: We remember when on that night he took the bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you: do this in remembrance of Me.” Let us receive the gift of God, the Bread.

All: We receive it with joy because we know that it is love.

One: In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” Let us receive the gift of God, the Cup of Love.

All: We find hope in the cup because we share it with each other.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

God of Eternal Grace, we have been blessed by this gathering, by this bread, by this juice, and by one another at this table. May we claim the courage to take such a welcome into our families, communities, and world. May we hold the power of this moment lies in our actions of compassion and inclusion, listening and caring. Thanks be to God for this Community of Love. Amen.

Closing Hymn**“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”**

Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace, We respond with deep
commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and
friend with friend, Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth. Let us follow, never
faltering, reconciling folk on earth, Men and Women, richer, poorer, all God’s people,
younger and old, Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

So Gad grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life That surround each person’s sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife. Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

Postlude

“Postlude”

G. Dyson

Benediction



NEWTON HIGHLANDS † 150 YEARS

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