



Love and Say It with Your Life April 21, 2024

MEDITATION

*"Love and say it with your life."
St. Augustine of Hippo*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

L: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **P: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

"Now I Belong to Jesus"

Norman J. Clayton

CALL TO WORSHIP

Melessa Fox, Deacon

L: We who too often lose our way gather today to say:

All: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it; for God founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

L: God created us for relationship with God, one another, and the earth.

All: Let us honor those relationships today and every day.

L: We seek to care for our brothers and sisters around the world and God's good Creation.

All: Let us honor those relationships today and every day.

L: May we commit to new ways of honoring your Creation as a means of sharing Jesus' transforming love,

All: And let us seek God's grace, justice, and mercy for all. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE & HOPE

"Shine, Jesus, Shine" *Refrain only*

In Pew

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, forgive us for the ways in which we contribute to the disfigurement and destruction of your Creation. Transform our hearts and minds, so that we may place the welfare of your earth and your people before our fleeting desires. Embolden us to give voice to the voiceless in our communities and ecosystems and grant us divine wisdom that we may replace systems of destruction and oppression with systems of justice and sustainability. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Heidi Champagne

Family of Faith, believe and proclaim the good news: in Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free to love God and love God's creation with our whole selves. For the Lord makes a way in the desert, and streams in the wasteland, the Lord makes all things new. Hear the Good News! We are forgiven. We are loved. **All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

"Rejoice You Pure in Heart"

Black 71

WORD FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Lisa Allen

ANTHEM

"New Life" *words and music by Hal Hopson* *Chancel Choir*

OLD TESTAMENT READING |

Psalm 23

Melessa Fox, Deacon

NEW TESTAMENT READING |

1 John 3:16-24

David Kayajan, Reader

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

"Love and say it with your life"

Rev. Heidi Champagne

*RESPONSIVE HYMN

"Awake, Awake to Love and Work

Black 89

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

After the pastoral prayer, you are invited to share your joys and concerns. When names are spoken out loud, we are all invited to respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."

THE LORD'S 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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"

Chancel Choir

Adoro Te Devote, arr: K. Lee Scott

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Listening God, in seeking you in all things, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts. We give these offerings trusting you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. With these offerings, we give ourselves. May we live with generous hearts and open hands. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

Black 393

SUNG BENEDICTION "You Are My All in All" words/music: Dennis Jernigan, Chancel Choir

You are my strength when I am weak; You are the treasure that I seek. You are my all in all. Seeking You as a precious jewel; Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool. You are my all in all. Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name. Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

*music: Charles Gounod
moderato quasi Allegretto*

*Stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who enrich our morning together!

*Rev. Heidi Champagne	Melessa Fox, Deacon
David Kayajan, Reader	Natalie Packard, Tech
Members of the Chancel Choir	Sue Long, hospitality

Music covered under One License # A-728849

***Rev. Heidi Champagne is an ordained minister in the UCC, who currently works as a hospice chaplain. She is also a yoga instructor and reiki master. Heidi has a love of nature and all of creation, and enjoys hiking and caring for her 3 cats and rescue hound, Maurice.**



The altar flowers today are given in memory of Nana Davock by her children, grandchildren, Maise and Bennett.