



Sunday, April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

A worship service created by the staff of the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences of the United Church of Christ

Words of Welcome - Rev. Brigit Stevens

Call to Worship - Kerry Steever

Leader: We rejoice that our resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ, is with us.

People: Our lives are full of God's blessings.

Leader: Although we hear words of doubt, we are called to believe.

People: May we focus on the light amidst the darkness in the world.

Leader: Christ gives us victory.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

“We Are Gathered” Sing-Along - The Maidans

Text by Amanda Udis-Kessler, 2020; <https://queersacredmusic.com/scores>

Tune: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (Nettleton)

We are gathered in the Spirit though our bodies are apart,
Filled with joy and touched with wonder, separate hands but mingled hearts.
Giving thanks and singing praises for the love that calls us on.
From our many different places we are gathered into one.

We are gathered in our sorrow. We are gathered in our fear.
In our pain and in our worry, in our anger and our tears.
As we tend to one another with our gifts and with our care,
Our community is strengthened through the faith and hope we share.

We are gathered in commitment to a planet that is whole.
Works of justice, acts of kindness bless the world and heal our souls.
As our voices join together, may our song of peace resound.
May we offer in abundance all the grace that we have found.

Holy Humor! - Rev. Jonna Jensen

Time Especially for Children - Rev. Jonna Jensen

Pastoral Prayer - Rev. Darrell Goodwin

The Story from Scripture - Rev. Samantha Houser

Message - Rev. Ellis Arnold

Invitation to Generosity - Rev. Darrell Goodwin

“Simple Gifts” - The Maidans

Tune and lyrics attributed to Joseph Brackett (1797-1882) - Shaker dancing song

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Pastor: Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on the bread and wine, on the crackers and juice, on all the foods, and all the drinks we've gathered, your gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

All: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

...Blessing and Sharing of the Elements...

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

“Down to the River to Pray” Sing-Along - The Maidans
Traditional Spiritual

As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way

Oh children let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Oh children let's go down
Down to the river to pray

(1st - oh children, 2nd - oh family, 3rd - oh neighbors, 4th - all God's children)

Benediction

Rev. Samantha Houser, Associate Conference Minister

A message from Rev. Brigit Stevens:

Thank you for joining us today and THANK YOU, PASTORS! I see you! You are working extra hours and carrying heavier burdens than most Lenten and Easter seasons. Thank you. I see you learning new technologies fast enough to inspire software companies to make upgrades in the middle of the chaos. I see you making phone calls for hours on end to check in on members. I see you connecting leaders to each other to create safety nets of care and communication. I see you convening committee after committee to make decisions faster than the virus. I see you worrying about the stability of your congregation's finances. I see you weeping and grieving over the losses in your communities. I see you caring for your own children and parents while caring for your flock. I see you praying. Thank you. You are beloved children of God called to this particular time and place and you are enough. You are beautiful and beloved. Thank you for your gifts!

Rev. Brigit Stevens
Executive Conference Minister

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Brigit Stevens.....	Executive Conference Minister
Rev. Darrell Goodwin.....	Associate Conference Minister
Rev. Ellis Arnold.....	Associate Conference Minister
Rev. Jonna Jensen.....	Associate Conference Minister
Rev. Samantha Houser.....	Associate Conference Minister
Kerry Steever.....	UCC Licensed Minister and Placerville Camp Director
Aidan Spencer.....	Communications Specialist, The Maidans
Marie Sauze.....	Artistic Collaborator, The Maidans

Thank you for joining us! God bless and be well!