



WELCOME TO  
MORNING WORSHIP



Sunday, September 20, 2020

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THIS BULLETIN ARE  
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- FIRST -  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BETTER TOGETHER  
Loving God | Helping Others | Finding Joy

RETURNING TO CHURCH PLAN  
WHAT TO EXPECT FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

- **Please stay home if you have any cold/flu/COVID symptoms**
- Please wear a mask
- Please allow ushers to create socially-distanced seating
- Please use hand sanitizer upon entry and exit of building
- Please do not share bulletins, they may be discarded before exiting
- Ventilation enhancements have been made to our facility
- We will keep doors open so you may avoid touching surfaces
- Facility is thoroughly cleaned in between worship services

We look forward to continuing to worship Christ together as a First Church Family and continue on our Journey of Loving God, Helping Others and Finding Joy!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Happy birthday to Alda M., who turned 78 yesterday! Please join us in celebrating with her by sending cards to her home or by calling her!

Office Hours – In an effort to regain a safe presence in the church office, we will begin having staggered church office hours as follows: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Pastors Doug and Joyce will be in the office on Mondays, Jon will be in on Wednesdays, and Lisa will be in on Fridays. Feel free to phone the office staff during these times. *Visits inside with staff are by appointment only.*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

## PRELUDE

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Performed by Ed Swartz

By Michael Joncas, arr. Lani Smith

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME (*Pastor*)

### CALL TO WORSHIP (*Not responsively due to safety*)      *Psalm 96*

*Pastor: Hear the words of praise from Psalm 96, the words of an unknown psalmist:*

*<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD! Let the whole earth sing to the LORD! <sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD; praise his name. Each day proclaim the good news that he saves. <sup>3</sup> Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. <sup>4</sup> Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods. <sup>5</sup> The gods of other nations are mere idols, but the LORD made the heavens! <sup>6</sup> Honor and majesty surround him; strength and beauty fill his sanctuary. <sup>7</sup> O nations of the world, recognize the LORD; recognize that the LORD is glorious and strong. <sup>8</sup> Give to the LORD the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his courts. <sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in all his holy splendor. Let all the earth tremble before him. *Pastor: These are words that tell of God’s wondrous nature. Let us all affirm the truth of these words by silently saying, Amen.**

### CALL TO CONFESSION (*Pastor*)

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Not responsively due to safety*)

*We do not like to think of ourselves coming under Your judgment, holy God. But in our hearts, we know that we have not gone “all in” with those tasks You have entrusted to us. We want to protect ourselves rather than praying to find ways to continue to participate, even in Covid conditions, in loving and faithful service. In these times of social distancing and mask wearing and staying away from large groups, help us realize*

*the tasks You are calling us to do. We want to be children of the day – Your day. Help us see Your path. Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Pastor*)

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Exodus 32:1-14 (NLT)*

**32** When the people saw how long it was taking Moses to come back down the mountain, they gathered around Aaron. “Come on,” they said, “make us some gods who can lead us. We don’t know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt.” <sup>2</sup> So Aaron said, “Take the gold rings from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters, and bring them to me.” <sup>3</sup> All the people took the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw it, they exclaimed, “O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!” <sup>5</sup> Aaron saw how excited the people were, so he built an altar in front of the calf. Then he announced, “Tomorrow will be a festival to the LORD!” <sup>6</sup> The people got up early the next morning to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings. After this, they celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry. <sup>7</sup> The LORD told Moses, “Quick! Go down the mountain! Your people whom you brought from the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. <sup>8</sup> How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted down gold and made a calf, and they have bowed down and sacrificed to it. They are saying, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.’” <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said, “I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. <sup>10</sup> Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation.” <sup>11</sup> But Moses tried to pacify the LORD his God. “O LORD!” he said. “Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power and such a strong hand? <sup>12</sup> Why let the Egyptians say, ‘Their God rescued them with the evil intention of

slaughtering them in the mountains and wiping them from the face of the earth’? Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind about this terrible disaster you have threatened against your people! <sup>13</sup> Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You bound yourself with an oath to them, saying, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. And I will give them all of this land that I have promised to your descendants, and they will possess it forever.’” <sup>14</sup> So the LORD changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.

## SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON      *Exodus 32:15, 21-29, 35 (NLT)*

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses turned and went down the mountain. He held in his hands the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back.

<sup>21</sup> Finally, he turned to Aaron and demanded, “What did these people do to you to make you bring such terrible sin upon them?”

<sup>22</sup> “Don’t get so upset, my lord,” Aaron replied. “You yourself know how evil these people are. <sup>23</sup> They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will lead us. We don’t know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt.’ <sup>24</sup> So I told them, ‘Whoever has gold jewelry, take it off.’ When they brought it to me, I simply threw it into the fire—and out came this calf!”

<sup>25</sup> Moses saw that Aaron had let the people get completely out of control, much to the amusement of their enemies. <sup>26</sup> So he stood at the entrance to the camp and shouted, “All of you who are on the LORD’s side, come here and join me.” And all the Levites gathered around him. <sup>27</sup> Moses told them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Each of you, take your swords and go back and forth from one end of the camp to the other. Kill everyone—even your brothers, friends, and neighbors.” <sup>28</sup> The Levites obeyed Moses’ command, and about 3,000 people died that day. <sup>29</sup> Then Moses told the Levites, “Today you have ordained yourselves for the service of the LORD, for you obeyed him even though it meant killing your own sons and brothers.

Today you have earned a blessing.” 30 The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a terrible sin, but I will go back up to the LORD on the mountain. Perhaps I will be able to obtain forgiveness for your sin.”

35 Then the LORD sent a great plague upon the people because they had worshiped the calf Aaron had made.

SERMON

“Let’s Pretend”

Pastor Douglas W. Donigian

HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

*The congregation should refrain from singing.*

REGINALD FIEBER, 1820

11. 12. 12. 10.

JOHN B. DYKES, 1861

*With exaltation*

1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,  
 3. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,  
 4. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee:  
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,  
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,  
 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 Per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A-MEN.

## THE APOSTLES CREED (Not responsively due to safety)

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Pastor)

### OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Not responsively due to safety)

*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 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.*

## OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER (Pastor)

### INVITATION (Pastors)

*Jesus invites us to believe in Him and act on our belief. He says, "Here I am. I stand at the door and knock; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in." When you open your door,*

*we rejoice, as you experience Him in your heart and look forward to eternal life. He says, "If anyone loves me, he will keep My word and My Father and I will make our abode with him. Merciful God, we rejoice with You for all who are saved by belief and grace and all who keep Your word to love others as themselves. Amen.*

*If you have professed faith in Jesus for the first time or have committed yourself anew to grow as a disciple, please inform the pastors.*

**CHARGE (Pastor)**

**BENEDICTION (Pastor)**

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