



WELCOME TO
MORNING WORSHIP



Sunday, October 18, 2020

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF
THIS BULLETIN ARE
AVAILABLE AT

WWW.FIRSTUCC.NET

- 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS
FAMILY THANKOFFERING 2020

From Barbara S., Women's Guild President

I apologize that this announcement did not come out sooner. I am out of kilter and I imagine many of you are too. The guild has not been able to meet since February but we hope to remedy that very soon. The weeks seem to go slowly and yet, we wonder where the months have gone. Even though our wood is stacked in preparation for winter, mentally I am not ready!

Our traditional guild Family Thankoffering was not able to be held on October 11th (the second Sunday in October) due to COVID. However, as always, we **are** taking the Thankoffering and there is a special envelope in your packet. **COVID has disrupted our lives but not our hearts!**

Seeing the recent devastation of the hurricanes in the south and the flooding that followed, the guild is designating that the offering be sent to the UCC Disaster fund for 2020 hurricane and flood damage in Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama. I think that many of you, like me, are acutely aware of the damage flooding can do.

We understand that not everyone is in a position to give large amounts, but anything you can give to help these individuals and families that have suffered such a terrible loss would be very much appreciated.

Donations to Thankoffering can be made for the next five weeks. If you have misplaced your Thankoffering envelope or wish to make an additional offering, please write Family Thankoffering on the check or other envelope. And if you want credit please be sure your name or envelope number is enclosed with your donation.

Questions can be directed to Barbara by calling her or by email womensguild@firstucc.net. Thank you in advance for your gift to help these folks in need.

ZOOM WORSHIP – Please make a note of this, tell your friends, we are attempting to provide a Zoom worship option for calling in and for viewing. *As always, Facebook Live will be streamed at 9:15 and the recorded version will be sent by email later on Sunday.* Put this information somewhere so that you can access it if you need to share it with someone or if you need to be home on any given week. We believe that this information will not change but be the same each week. *Thank you for your patience as we try out this exciting new option.*

ZOOM WORSHIP AT FIRST UCC

- To call in from your phone (audio only) call:
 - 1 301 715 8592
 - If required, please enter meeting ID 965 905 9323
- To join the zoom video worship, please go to:
 - <https://zoom.us/j/9659059323>
 - Meeting ID: 965 905 9323

THANKSGIVING DINNER - We would like to organize an event for the community and congregation - in-person outside and grab-and-go style. Please reach out to Alyse F. or Daniel S. if you are interested in helping pull this together.

SOUP SALES to support the Thanksgiving Dinner will begin Sunday, October 25. Please let Karen W. know if you are interested

in providing soup any Sunday from October 25 through November 22.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES - As we all know, December is a very important month for us as a church family. We typically have a number of activities including Christmas Workshop, Christmas in Quakertown, Children's Candlelight Service, Outdoor Nativity, and Christmas Eve Services. As we continue to live in this new normal, we want to offer an opportunity to think creatively and outside the norm as we enter this time of our extremely important Christmas season, working with members of our church family and determining alternative ways to offer these events. Please reach out to Alyse F. if you are interested in supporting these efforts.

CHRISTMAS SURVEY - Be on the lookout for a survey to assess your interest in these various activities including Christmas Eve Service and let us know what you think.

ZOOM MEETING – The first meeting regarding the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons will be Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm. Please be in touch with Alyse if you are interested in attending this Zoom meeting.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020

PRELUDE

Prelude on “Slane,” Be Thou My Vision
Arr. Gilbert M. Martin, © 1971 Lorenz Publishing Co.
Performed by Ed Swartz

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *Matthew 7:24-28 (NRSV)*
(Not responsively due to safety)

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it

fell—and great was its fall!” ²⁸ Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching,

CALL TO CONFESSION (*Pastor*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Please pray this silently along with us*)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Pastor*)

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 34 (NLT)

1 I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. 2 I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart. 3 Come, let us tell of the Lord’s greatness; let us exalt his name together. 4 I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. 5 Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. 6 In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles. 7 For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him. 8 Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! 9 Fear the Lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. 10 Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing. 11 Come, my children, and listen to me, and I will teach you to fear the Lord. 12 Does anyone want to live a life that is long and prosperous? 13 Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies! 14 Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. 15 The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help. 16 But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil; he will erase their memory from the

earth. 17 The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. 18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. 19 The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time. 20 For the Lord protects the bones of the righteous; not one of them is broken! 21 Calamity will surely destroy the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished. 22 But the Lord will redeem those who serve him. No one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 1 (NLT)

1 Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. 2 But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. 3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. 4 But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind. 5 They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly. 6 For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

Pastor 1: The word of the Lord.

Pastor 2: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Psalms of Instruction”

Pastor Douglas W. Donigian

HYMN

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Performed by Carol Edge

The congregation should refrain from singing.



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is almost gone,
and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932 Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain

THE APOSTLES CREED

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

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

INVITATION (*Pastors*)

Pastor 1: Jesus invites us to believe in Him and act on our belief.

Pastor 2: 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.”

Pastor 1: When you open your door, we rejoice, as you experience Him in your heart and look forward to eternal life.

Pastor 2: He says, “If anyone loves me, he will keep My word and My Father and I will make our abode with him.

Pastor 1: 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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