

on this rock I will build my church



The Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

COME AWAY TO A LONELY PLACE FOR A WHILE TO SIT AND LEARN AT THE FEET OF JESUS.

Where Jesus lives we are not lonely, for there is compassion and healing power.

IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE NONE GO HUNGRY, BUT ALL FIND BREAD FOR BODY AND SOUL.

Christ is, for us, the bread of life and bids us feed our neighbor.

MIRACLES OF SHARING ARE INSPIRED BY SMALL GIFTS, SPONTANEOUSLY OFFERED, WITHOUT PRETENSE OR GUILDS.

We want to experience the miracles of Christ, beginning in our own attitudes and actions.

THEN LET JESUS LEAD YOU TO THE SOURCE OF LIFE AND INTERCEDE FOR YOU BEFORE GOD.

With our sisters and brothers we seek God's blessing in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

HYMN OF ADORATION No. 35 When Morning Gilds the Skies

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Oh, God who saved a people from oppression by signs and wonders and an outstretched hand, save us from ourselves and from the perils we face every day. There is so much that propels us toward the darkness of dishonesty, unfaithfulness, and unfairness. Sometimes we face enemies within -- laziness, fear, and low self-esteem. Often structures and powers outside us have little regard for covenant communities, individual rights, or corporate responsibility. We confess our complicity with evil and our slowness to seek your help. Listen to our prayer and deliver us. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MERCY p. 545 Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

OUR CREATOR MEETS US WHERE WE ARE -- AT WORK, IN WILDERNESS, IN CROWDED PLACES, OR AT WORSHIP -- WITH SAVING GRACE.

God teaches us the way should do and leads us on a path where we are set free from sin to live fully as God intends.

All

We believe in the good news of Jesus Christ

PASSING THE PEACE

ACT OF PRAISE Gloria Patri p. 513

READING OF SCRIPTURE

- Exodus 12: 1-14
- Psalms 143: 1-10
- Romans 8: 31-39
- Matthew 14: 13-21

SERMON "What Shall We Say?"

Bill Renfro

HYMN NO. 35 When Morning Gilds the Skies

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Moment of Concern

Kathy Strong

OFFERTORY Doxology p. 514

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, the Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen

Prayer Of Our Savior

Hymn of Parting No. 375 "Lead On, O King Eternal"
Commissioning and Benediction

YOU HAVE A DISTINCTIVE PLACE IN GOD'S DESIGN:
YOUR INFLUENCE EXTENDS TO PLACES NO OTHERS CAN
REACH

God will work for the good of many, through us.

BE ALERT TO THE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES GOD SETS
BEFORE YOU DAY BY DAY.

We would discern the hidden treasure and pearl
of great value.

THE BLESSING OF GOD ALMIGHTY: THE CREATOR, THE
REDEEMER, AND THE SANCTIFIER, BE WITH YOU ALL.

Amen

Postlude

Mrs. Carole Barrett

Liturgist

The Rev. Bill Renfro

Preacher

Mr. Earl Cornwell

Violinist

Mr. James Lee

Pianist

Mrs. Nancy Brown & Mrs. Marie Clark

Greeters

Rev. Dr. John C. Towery

Minister

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are glad to have you worship with us. If you
are a visitor, please sign our guest register
in the rear of the worship area.

It is good to have Bill Renfro back in our pulpit
while the pastor was away participating in the
wedding of Dena Cleaver and David Bartholomew
at Marquand Chapel, Yale Divinity School. Bill
heads up our CROP walk and is active in other
efforts to fight hunger.

Tue. 7:30 p.m. Bible Study. I Cor. chapter 1.
Cathy Hubbs leads. We meet at Midori and Oliver
Campbell's home. 6000 Nasco.

Thur. 7 a.m. Breakfast at the church.

Kathy Strong is one of our delegates to Austin
Interfaith Sponsoring Committee, and she is in-
viting you to a meeting on Aug. 31.

The pastor will be back Tuesday.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 23, 1987

Matthew 16:18

Are you a rock? You probably don't think so, not in the way the word is used in today's gospel. Peter didn't think he was a rock either, and he didn't seem very much like a rock—with his questions and pretensions, and his denial of Jesus. But to Peter was given great responsibility for the kingdom of God. In all generations, the work of the church has been carried out largely by ordinary people, people like you and me, enabled by God to do more than we think is possible. So it will continue.

Rev. Elizabeth N. Oettinger
Plymouth Congregational Church
Seattle, Washington

UNITY

When United Church of Christ members gather—as congregations, associations, and conferences, as corporate boards and synods—unity is always the watchword. In prayer and song, in sermon and sacrament, we renew our dedication to the unity of all humanity in God's love.

Lifting up the ideal of one unified human family, founded upon and nurtured by God's love for all, is only one dimension of our ministry of inclusiveness. We also look squarely into the hate-filled eyes of the divisiveness that constantly menaces our dream; and then we seek to disarm it. For, without our constant prayers, protests, and reconciling witness, the world will only grow more strife-torn.

We cannot emphasize unity too often in a world as fractured by internecine conflict and division as ours: Tamil and Sinhalese in Sri Lanka, Christian and Muslim in the Philippines, Arab and Jew in the Middle East, black and white in South Africa.

In all these places, where ethnic and religious differences are an occasion for conflict rather than a cause for celebration, our partner churches and United Church Board for World Ministries-appointed missionaries are actively at work in reconciliation.

The soil of human history has been sown with the seeds of dissension. Today, the forces of evil in the world look forward confidently to a continuing harvest of hatred and violence.

But Christians are convinced that disruptive forces can be overcome. Those who follow God's way of reconciliation and love continually reaffirm our commitment to unity not only in word but also through support for Our Church's Wider Mission.