

Peace UCC  
September 5, 2021

**Prelude** "Praise My Soul, O God of Heaven" Lani Smith  
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**Welcome**

**Opening Words** Beth Merrill adapted

God of all Creation, what do you require of us?

To do justice, seeking peace & reconciliation, standing with people who are marginalized and forgotten

To love kindness showing compassion and unconditional caring for people in need

To walk humbly following in the steps of Jesus, we lift up not the work of our hands but the power that sustains our service.

**Opening Response** "Sing to our God a New Song" Hal H. Hopson

Sing a new song to our God, sing a new song,  
sing a new song, sing a new song to our God.

**Prayer of Invocation** Sharon Flaten

**God, we come before you today knowing what it is that you require of us but wondering how to achieve these things you ask of us. As we continue to ask ourselves how to better serve you and one another, guide us, support us, and encourage us. Guide us in making the right choice. Support us as we work to follow those decisions. Encourage us so that we may always be asking the questions and striving to find the answers. In your name we pray.**

**The Witness of Music** Kathy Adair

**Reading:**

Psalm 146

Alleluia

Praise the Holy One, O my soul!

I will praise the Holy One as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Holy One their God,

who made heaven and earth,  
 the sea, and all that is in them;  
 who keeps faith for ever;  
 who executes justice for the oppressed;  
 who gives food to the hungry.

The Holy One sets the prisoners free;  
 the Holy One opens the eyes of the blind.  
 The Holy One lifts up those who are bowed down;  
 the Holy One loves the righteous.  
 The Holy One watches over the strangers;  
 and upholds the orphan and the widow,  
 but the way of the wicked Holy One brings to ruin.

The Holy One will reign for ever,  
 your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
 Alleluia

**For the wisdom contained in these holy words we give thanks. Amen**

**Sermon** Rev. Wendy Bruner

**Hymn** "Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good"

Sing praise to God, our high-est good, pro - found re - spect ex -  
 Cre - a - tion thanks you, Ho - ly One: you\_ made us and re -  
 What God has made, God will pre-serve, with\_ righ-teous-ness un -  
 I cry to God, in pain and grief, "Please, God of mer - cy,\_  
 press - ing. God gives us health, life, live - li - hood, with\_  
 new us. De - light - ed at what you have done, you\_  
 fail - ing. Re - gard-less what we may de - serve, we\_  
 hear me!" My cer - tain help pro - vides re - lief, faith\_  
 ev - ery need - ed\_ bless - ing. To God, who won - drous  
 show your great - ness\_ through us. So may all liv - ing  
 see this good pre - vail - ing. To God who gov - erns  
 hope, and love to\_ cheer me. So let me sing, joy -  
 works per-forms, cre - a - ting life and calm-ing storms, to  
 things pro-claim the won-ders of their Mak-er's name: to  
 ev - er - more with jus - tice serv - ing rich and poor, to  
 ful and free: ah, thank - ful Chris - tians, sing with me: to  
 God give praise and\_ glo - ry!  
 God give praise and\_ glo - ry!  
 God give praise and\_ glo - ry!  
 God give praise and\_ glo - ry!

## **Joys and Concerns**

### **Prayer**

Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kin-dom come, your 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 yours is the kin-dom, and the power,  
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Communion**

**Prayer:** Come, Holy Spirit, come.  
Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.  
Bless all of us in our eating and drinking  
that our eyes might be opened,  
that we might recognize the risen Christ  
in our midst, indeed, in one another.  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

### **Pray of Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love  
by bringing us to this meal.  
We go from here renewed in faith,  
renewed in courage,  
and strengthened by your presence.  
Thank you for loving us so tenderly.  
Thank you for challenging us  
to know you better and to receive you more fully. Amen

### **How Shall We Join God's Work in the World**

Gracious God, we give thanks and ask your blessings on the many and diverse gifts we bring to join  
you in your work in the world.

### **Benediction**

**Postlude** "And Again I Say, Rejoice!" Brenda Portman  
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