

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD
*An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ*

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WORSHIP AT CAMP ASTO WAMAH

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

May 28, 2017

12:00 PM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. We are glad you have joined us for this service of worship and the fellowship of this congregation, as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God for us today. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Any of our worship leaders or ushers will be able to help with your questions. If you are already a member, be sure to extend a friendly greeting to those around you, starting with someone you don't know...yet.

*Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices
before the service of Worship begins.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that
we belong to each other."*

~ St. Teresa of Calcutta, 20th century

CHIMING OF THE HOUR & GREETING

HIGHLIGHTING OUR MINISTRIES

COMING BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. Dale Wood

PLEASE STAND.

OPENING SENTENCES

based on Psalm 68

Leader: We shout for joy to God, who rides upon the clouds!

People: **We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God,
before whom the earth quakes, and
whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!**

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

NICAEA

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PLEASE BE SEATED.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of abundance and mercy, we acknowledge your presence among us today. Open our eyes to see the path before us. Deepen our faith to walk with you upon this path. Strengthen our hearts with courage to embark on the journey. Enlarge our hearts with gratitude for your provision along the way. Teach us these things today, O God, as we pray with Jesus' words...

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, for ever. Amen.

(* = traditional wording but you may use alternative wording, such as “God,” “Creator,” or “Mother,” as seems fitting.)

CONFESSION AND RESPONSE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed One, you created human beings for your glory and pleasure.

People: **Forgive us for being self-absorbed and choosing to live solely for ourselves.**

Leader: Forgive us for ignoring the prompting of your Spirit, your purpose for our lives, and for placing our will above yours.

People: **Grant us courage to share in Christ’s sufferings, to be his witnesses, and to carry your loving compassion to a hurting world. Amen.**

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, the love of God revealed in Jesus reconciles us, heals us and sets us free to see one another clearly, to challenge one another honestly, to work with one another for God’s vision of justice, love and peace.

People: **Amen.**

PLEASE STAND.

Response (sung by all)

Glory Be to God

text: *Gloria patri*, 3rd century, transl.

music: Peter DuBois, 2007

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The love of God, the Peace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Since in Christ we have been reconciled, let us share his peace with one another.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

PSALTER READING (responsive)

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him. **2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.** 3 But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. **4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds — his name is the Lord— be exultant before him.** 5 Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. **6 God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.** 7 O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, **8 the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.** 9 Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; **10 your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, **33 O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.** 34 Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose

power is in the skies. **35 Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!**

CAMPER COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING FOR CAMP SEASON

The Reverend Dr. Damaris D. Whittaker

One: On this Camp Sunday, we celebrate Camp Asto Wamah. Each camper has heard God's call to spend time in this special place this summer. As the Holy Spirit prepares their hearts, we want to pray for them and with them. We also want to pray for those who are not here and will fill this lodge and the cabins.

For the miracle of creation, in all its infinite diversity and splendor, we give thanks to the One who sustains us.

Many: **We give you thanks, Holy One.**

One: For the rhythm of a paddle gently striking the water, the morning mist in a field of clover, the call of the loon, the radiance of sunset, the sparkle of water, and the dance of the dragonflies.

Many: **We give you thanks, Creator God.**

One: For all those who need to be part of an inclusive community, a place where the natural world radiates, or to both, and yet, who cannot find the time or courage to do so.

Many: **We give thanks for the places in our lives that give us renewal and help us to deeply know others on the journey.**

One: Gracious God, we pray for camps and retreat centers, and all sacred places whose mission is to bring people to an awareness of your glory. We pray for each participant at Camp Asto Wamah, that they may have a safe and meaningful experience, and a season of strengthening faith.

Many: **We pray to you, God.**

One: For the safe travel to camp and safety while here,

Many: **We pray to you, God.**

One: For the fun time in fellowship together and the relationships strengthened at camp,

Many: **We pray to you, God.**

One: For new ways campers will experience your love through prayer, games, nature hikes, and all that camp has to offer,

Many: **We pray to you, God.**

One: For the Asto Wamah staff, who will need strength, energy, guidance, and endurance to serve you this summer as they work with campers,

Many: We pray to you, God.

One: For your Holy Spirit to work in exciting and unexpected ways through the outdoor ministry of Center Church Camp Asto Wamah,

Many: We pray to you, God.

(All turn around and face the lake)

Many: We thank you for the astoundingly beautiful place, infused with divinity, called Camp Asto Wamah. Bless this season with grace, abundance, safety, connection, and love.

One: And God, please help all of us to live out the message of Camp Asto Wamah, as inspired by Jesus:

All: To love You, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbor. Amen.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:

Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray:

Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PLEASE BE SEATED.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

(We encourage you to use offering envelopes when giving.)

Offertory Music
Land of Rest

Appalachian Tune
arr. W. Held

PLEASE STAND AS THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD.

Hymn of Presentation

OLD HUNDREDTH
text: Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.
music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heav'nly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ever-present and loving God, in faith and trust we present these gifts, and ourselves, to you. Bless and multiply them to meet the needs, both hidden and apparent, of your beloved ones. Inspire each of us to live as Christ's witnesses, today and ever more. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH

HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,

The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
The fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of your teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
To work for God's realm and to answer the call.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace

arr. Jack Schrader

Go in joy and fellowship to celebrate God's gift of creation!