



**center church**  
the first church of christ UCC

**Order of Worship for  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020  
10:30am**

*All hymns are printed in the back  
of this bulletin.*



**CHIMES**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

Trumpet Tune

C. S. Lang

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING INTROIT**

Alleluia

**OPENING HYMN**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

NCH 1

ST. DENIO

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**SCRIPTURE Jonah 3:10-4:11 (NRSV)**

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

4But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

<sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

#### SCRIPTURE Matthew 20:1-15 (NRSV)

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

#### SERMON Pinched Piety

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

#### DUET

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

Arr. Calvin Hampton

*Caroline Christopher and Madison Finke, Warburton Music Interns*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER ("debts")

MOMENT OF RECEIVING

CLOSING HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

NCH 23

IN BABILONE

BLESSING

VOCAL BENEDICTION

Alleluia

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune (Reprise)

C. S. Lang

Our thanks to the everyone  
who created today's service.  
Go in peace!

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;  
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;  
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;  
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Your jus - tice like moun-tains high soar - ing a - bove,  
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,  
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.  
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.  
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.  
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts'  
 Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

# There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.  
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;  
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.  
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.



Tune: IN BABILON 8.7.8.7.D.  
*Dutch melody*  
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906  
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA