***Welcome to Worship***

August 30, 2020 10:30 A.M.

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**GOD CALLS US TOGETHER**

Call to Worship:

Praise be to God,  
**who rescues us from the power of darkness;  
who redeems us and sets us free!**

Praise be to Jesus Christ, the first born of all creation,  
**through whom all things were made,  
in heaven and on the earth.**

Praise be to the Spirit of God,  
**whose presence sustains us,  
and whose breath renews all creation.**

Behold! I am making all things new!  
**Come, O God, and make your home among us.  
Pour out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.**

~ Christine Longhurst, for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Gathering Hymn: *O Day of Peace*

Call to Confession

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Let us come before God our Maker, who formed us in the divine image and transforms our hearts even now.

Prayer of Confession:

Creator God, too often we have neglected our neighbors and the world around us. We have sought profit from creation, asking what the earth and all that is in it can do for us instead of how we might glorify you in it. Again and again, we squander the resources entrusted to us because we do not recognize them as gifts from your divine hand. Too easily, we discard the broken things and suffering people, because we do not trust the high value that you place on all life. Forgive us, we pray. Correct our sight. Help us to stand in awe before your creation and to recognize the intrinsic value of each and every thing within it. In Christ’s name we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of God’s Grace

Sisters, brothers, siblings in Christ, by the mercies of God, the Spirit transforms and renews our minds, and washes us in grace. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**Thanks be to God**.

**Gloria Patri**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*The peace of Christ be with you.* **And also with you.**

***Please share the Peace of Christ while maintaining appropriate social distance.***

**THE WORD OF GOD READ AND PROCLAIMED**

Prayer of Illumination

Speak to us, Giver of Life, and make us new. We thirst for the waters of eternal life, we yearn to know ourselves as Resurrection People. Send your Holy Spirit upon us this day and create in us your new heaven and new earth. Speak to us words of comfort and hope, words of challenge and courage. Come: move among us, we pray. **Amen**

~ from *Making All Things New: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Easter*, written by the Rev. Mary Nelson Abbott.Posted on the United Church of Christ’s *Worship Ways Archive.*

First Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

1Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2**And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3**And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,   
and God himself will be with them;   
**4**he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”

**5**And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” **6**Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Sermon: *Chipped and Broken*

**WE RESPOND**

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in God’s promise of new creation,

let us pray to the Maker of heaven and earth,

saying: God of new life, hear our prayer.

We pray for the church . . .

Make your home among us, O God.

Let us be a true and trustworthy sign

of the new thing you are doing.

God of new life, hear our prayer.

We pray for the world . . .

Heal the suffering of your creation.

Let all creatures join together in praise

for your renewal of the earth.

God of new life, hear our prayer.

We pray for this community . . .

Give us a new dream, a new vision

of your amazing love for all people,

without prejudice or partiality.

God of new life, hear our prayer.

We pray for loved ones . . .

Be with them in their suffering.

Wipe away the tears from their eyes.

Let mourning, crying, and pain be no more.

God of new life, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, keep us working and praying

for the coming of your holy realm of peace,

when we will share abundant life with you;

through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

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.**

**\*WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD**

Sending Hymn: *O Holy City, Seen of John*

Benediction:   
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, with those whom you love, and with those whom God alone loves. Amen.