

Paul United Church of Christ
5312 Old Blue Rock Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247
Allen M. Fluent, Transitional Pastor
Order of Worship for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Neighbors in Need Sunday
October 17, 2021

(Although we are now holding worship in our building, we are conscious of the ongoing challenge of in-person worship while the coronavirus persists, and the need many feel to avoid the possibility of contagion. Therefore, we will be continuing the practice of sending a worship bulletin to all who are on our mailing lists for email or hard copy. Those who will be worshipping from home and who have computer access will also be receiving a recorded version of the service that will be sent out by email on Sunday afternoon and also can be seen on our Facebook page. We welcome your participation in any way that is convenient for you, and we encourage you to share our worship service with any person you know who may appreciate receiving it.)

Welcome, Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Prelude (recording begins)

Paula Weil

Call to Worship:

We've gathered this morning to celebrate neighbors, to give thanks for the ones who have helped us along the way, and to ask what we can do to pay forward the gifts and blessings we have received.

For the neighbors we grew up with, the kids next door and across the street who played with us,

we give you thanks, O God!

For the neighbors who watched over us, the ones who taught us things, and those who organized our games, and those who kept us safe,

we give you thanks, O God!

For the neighbors who have been lifelong friends, for those who brought soups and casseroles in our times of need,

we give you thanks, O God!

And for the new neighbors who have entered our lives and made us aware that the world is not a lonely place,

we give you thanks, O God!

In thanksgiving, we offer our joyful praise for the Gospel teachings that call us to form one worldwide neighborhood of mutuality and love.

*Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

#59, blue

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.*

*Mortals join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*

Mission Moment on Neighbors in Need

Marilyn Roth

Morning Prayer (written by Arnold Kenseth, in *New Century Hymnal*)

*Come, O Creator, O Immensity of Love, O Eternity of mercy. Come, and be with us for
shining. Be as warmth within us, and fire us for caring. Be as strength beside us, and
shape our lives for healing. Abide in our prayers, the spoken and the unspoken; and
make your Word come true within us. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

*Hymn

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

#581, blue

*Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.*

*Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow,, never faltering, reconciling fold on earth.
Men and women richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life,
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.*

Scripture Lesson:

Luke 10:25-37

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. And fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Sermon:

"Who is our Neighbor?"

Pastor Allen

This Sunday is the day we receive the United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need Special Offering – one of the five offerings received nationally in our denomination. A portion of our offering will be used for the support of the Council for American Indian Ministries. The remainder of the offering is for projects chosen by local congregations seeking to make significant changes in the lives of individuals living in their neighborhoods.

The Four Projects this year are:

- Small Houses for LGBTQ Young Adults who cannot go home.
- Sanctuary in Mexico for Refugees
- Teens in Texas advocating for the Minimum Wage
- Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)

In addition, today a brochure has been added to your bulletin about a mission effort by one of our congregational neighbors, Christ Church, UCC, in Fort Thomas, Kentucky,

under the guidance of the Rev. Howard Storm. This ministry plans to build a community center for a village in San Victor, Belize.

In all these things, our thoughts this morning are directed toward the important question asked of Jesus by a lawyer who wanted to know "Who is my neighbor?" and the way Jesus answered him by telling him how to be one.

Pastoral Prayer

And now we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

***Closing Hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians" #595, blue**

***We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.***

Refrain:

***And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

***We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. R***

***We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. R***

***All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. R***

***Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace.

Postlude