



May 10, 2020

10:30 Worship

"Faithful Stephen"

*"...You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake, lead me and guide me..."-Psalm 31:3*

Gathering Music

Amy Crousore

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Presto"

Amy Crousore
Josef Haydn

Carrying in the Light of Christ

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 31)*

In You, O God, we seek refuge!
Do not let us be put to shame!

**God is a Rock and Refuge for us;
A strong fortress for Salvation!**

You are indeed our Rock and our Refuge;
You are our Fortress and Guide!

**Into God's Hands we commend our Spirits;
God has Redeemed our Souls!**

You turn us away from the idols of the world;
You implore us to follow Your ways;

**We will put our trust in God
And rejoice in God's Steadfast Love!
Come, let us worship God!**

Opening Hymn

"O Christ Jesus, Sent from Heaven"

#47

Opening Prayer

Creator God; like a mother, you guide us; showering us with love and inspiring us to live into our fullest potential. Like a mother, you give us unconditional love, accepting us and affirming us and embracing us no matter what. Forgive us for the times when we forget the lessons of your love. Teach us to embrace the possibilities you offer us and have confidence in your call; that we, like your disciples, may serve you fully.

Remind us, glorious God, of the lessons Jesus taught us; the ways of humility and service, and the joys of sacrificing the empty pleasures of this world in favor of the more fulfilling joy of a life lived serving you. Teach us to see you through the glory of Jesus and his ministry fulfilled in our lives; and teach us to be your servant leaders in this world. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Jesus taught us the value of sacrifice; and, following his example, his disciples sacrificed the material gratifications of this world in order to serve him. As disciples of Jesus, we have the choice to sacrifice as well, in order to find greater glory serving God; but even when we choose poorly, through Christ, we are forgiven. Like a loving parent, even when we choose poorly, God loves us unconditionally. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

Prayer Response

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace!**

Children’s Time

Pastor Rick

Response

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

**I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.
The world behind me, the cross before me (3x)
No turning back, no turning back**

Living our Mission

“Clean Up Columbia”

Pastor Rick

Anthem

Epistle Lesson:

Acts 7:51-8:1

Stephen, known by many as “the first Christian martyr” stays true to the Good News of Jesus Christ and his understanding of what it means to be a prophet. He pays the price for his integrity, illustrating the value of sacrifice with his own death.

Gospel Lesson:

John 14:1-14

Jesus tells Thomas and Phillip that whomever lives by the guiding principles that Jesus advocates, will realize God’s presence in their lives. That presence will allow them to do even greater works than Jesus did here on earth.

Meditation Hymn

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

NCH #493

Sermon:

“Faithful Stephen”

Pastor Rick

Meditation Hymn

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

NCH #400

Mother’s Day Prayer Litany

Pastor Rick

In recognition of all who nurture and support our Christian Community, whether they are mothers in the most literal interpretation of the word or others who guide us as a mother would, we give thanks for their faithful guidance as we join together in prayer.

Creator God; like a mother eagle teaching her young to fly,
You push us to stretch our wings while continuing to lift us up.
Like a mother bear, furious when her cubs are in danger,
You bring justice on those who practice oppression.
Like a Mother's arms wrapped around us,
Your Holy Spirit comforts us and keeps us safe.

Creative God, we know that you have placed special helpers in our lives; and in thanksgiving we praise you for the gift of all women who are nurturers in our lives; biological mothers and others. We thank you for their willingness to nurture us, for their trust in you to guide them through the fears of motherhood and the letting go of their adolescence.

We thank you also, nurturing God, for those women who may not have been our mothers, but give us an abundant life: We thank you for school teachers, aunts, grandmothers, sisters, pastors, elders, Sunday School teachers, supervisors, mentors, wives and friends who share their wisdom with us.

We ask your tender mercies on all those whose mothers now sing with the heavenly chorus; and for all those whose tears are not yet dry from losing their own mothers.

We ask your comforting presence on those mothers and grandmothers and aunts and others who have lost sons and daughters, grandchildren and friends. Grant them the grace to trust their loved ones to your never-ending care.

We pray for mothers and children who are alienated from each other by harsh words, distance, misunderstandings or external factors; and mothers who are not able at this time to live up to the expectations of motherhood. Grant them your grace to forgive each other and love again.

We pray for mothers whose sons and daughters defend our way of life as firefighters, officers of the law, and in the military. Grant them confidence in your presence with their children in the everyday risks of their important vocations.

God, we give thanks for all these nurturers in our lives, and your love that continues to embrace us.

Community Prayer

Silent Prayer

The 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response "Grant Us Peace"

**Hear our Prayer, O Lord!
Hear our prayer, O Lord!
Hear our Prayer, O Lord!
And Grant us Thy Peace! A-men!**

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

Presenting our Gifts

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Amy Crousore
John Carter

To give online text “GIVE” to 573.240.4041 and follow the prompts
You can also give online by visiting our website: www.columbiaucc.com



Response

“We Praise You, O God”

#420

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your Holy name, glad praises we sing!**

Prayer of Dedication

**Loving God; teach us to give boldly, love fully, and be blessings in Creation sowing unity,
not discord; love, not indifference. We offer these gifts to you as indicators of our
willingness to serve. Take our gifts and multiply them, using them to bless your world as
surely as you have already blessed us. Amen.**

Benediction

Pastor Rick

Response:

“Let There be Peace on Earth”

**Let there be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with me!
Let there be Peace on Earth; the Peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, Children all are we!
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony!
Let Peace begin with me; let this be the moment now!
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be Peace on Earth; and let it begin with me!**

Postlude

“Postlude on Regent Square”

Amy Crousore
Hal Hopson

CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God’s boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and affirming all God’s children.

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey;
No matter where you are on your faith journey;
No matter your sexual orientation, gender expression or identity;
No matter your race, culture, ethnicity, nationality or politics;
No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status or family structure;
No matter your social, economic, educational, legal or life circumstances;
You are welcome here!

Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

*CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:
Welcoming all God's People;
Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth;
Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;
Building a supportive church family;
Transforming both the congregation and community
through service and outreach*