



July 26, 2020

9:30 Worship

"Speaking in Parable"

** indicates those who are comfortably able may stand*

*"...Give thanks to God; Call upon God's name;
Make known God's deeds among all the people..."*

-Psalm 105:1

Gathering Music

Amy Crousore

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Irish Blessing"

Adam McCall

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(adapted from Psalm 105)

Pat Forward

Give thanks to God; call upon God's name!
Make God's deeds known among all people!

**Sing to God; Sing praises to God!
Tell all of God's wonderful works!**

We speak of how God's love can bring salvation to the world;
Let God's name be glorified; Let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice!

**All of Creation expresses God's powerful presence;
Who are we to try to bind God's love?**

We seek God continually and rely on God's strength!
We seek the Peace that God offers in all our ways!

**We are God's Children and we celebrate God's wonderful works!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Opening Hymn

"Praise to the Living God"

NCH #8

*Opening Prayer

Pat Forward

God of love; as we hear the parable of the mustard seed, images come to mind of our potential for ministry in the world. As we hear the parable of yeast leavening flour, our thoughts go to images of corrupting the apathy of the world with the catalyst of your love. All of these images and all of these stories compel us to think; but often, we try to reduce them to simple metaphor. Help us, creative God, to be inspired by your Wisdom, to use it as a tool for reflection, guiding us to a deeper understanding of our lives and our call. Inspire us, through story and parable, to fully grow into your servant leaders, corrupting the world with gracious love. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing Pastor Rick
We hear Jesus speaking in parable, and complain that he was not more direct. But the wisdom of Jesus' teachings was in the complexity of the parable; and our call is not to receive an answer but to digest a challenge. This is hard to grasp. But even when we fail to do this, God still loves us and forgives us. We are all God's children, blessed and beloved; forgiven and free! Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response NCH #283
"Spirit of the Living God"
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me!
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me!
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me!

Children's Time Pastor Rick

Response "This Little Light of Mine"
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Living our Mission "Christmas in July Offering" Mahree Skala

Anthem Marcella Dolezal
Byrne/Hull

Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:31-39 Pat Forward
Paul writes to the church in Rome, talking about God's preferential treatment of those who are oppressed. No forces of oppression can separate them from the love of God.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46 Pat Forward
Jesus tells more parables; in these, he imagines extreme disparities that make us think about the value and effect of the tiniest things, and how they can have a bit impact.

Sermon: "Speaking in Parables" Pastor Rick

*Meditation Hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" NCH #28

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

"Praise to the Living God"

Amy Crousore
Cindy Berry

*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"

NCH #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

Pat Forward

God of amazing grace; just as the tiny mustard seed grows into the greatest of shrubs, and just as the tiny bit of yeast acts as a catalyst for great change in the flour, we pray that these gifts we give today might change and grow and be catalysts for change in your world; corrupting the apathy of the world with your love and overpowering the darkness with the light of your glory. Take these gifts, and through them, may your world ever be changed. 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

"Christ the Cornerstone"

Amy Crousore
Roger Wilson

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***

Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.
St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Follitt S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

Let Heaven Your Wonders Proclaim

Ps. 89:1-2, 8-17

The Iona Community, 1991

Refrain, in unison

Fm C C7 Fm

Let heav-en your won-ders pro-claim, let an-gels your faith-ful-ness praise,