

Service of Divine Worship

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost August 8, 2010

Liturgist: David Fulton

Silent Meditations: *The church says that we can put it all on the altar. We can take this deeply ambiguous money—the root of so much evil and the source of much good—and put it on the altar. In so doing, our daily work is redeemed. What we are doing, in offering, is transformed from the mere making of a living, to the living of a life. Whatever we do for a living, we now do to the glory of God and for the giving to others. We can put it on the altar.*

Watch us, during the offering, and you will see us at our best. We take the stuff of our daily lives, and we give it back to God, for God's work. This is us at our very best. The image of the vandal, the destroyer, this is an image of us at our worst. In Afghanistan, when the Taliban ruled, they did many terrible things. But the image that sticks in my mind, of one of the most terrible things they did, was when they blew up, exploded into a million pieces, the great stone Buddhas that had been created in Afghanistan. Any regime that would do that to such a beautiful work of art will start blowing up people. This is an image of us at our worst.

In the offering, we enable you to be at your best. We enable you to give.

—Bishop William H. Willimon

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

*Chimes Sounding the Hour

*Time of Greeting

Announcements

Choral Call to Worship

Solemn Declaration - - Amen Sung

Praise to God

*Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

No. 12

*Responsive Call to Worship

Liturgist: Savior, Thou hast freely given all the blessings we enjoy,

People: Earthly store and bread of heaven, love and peace without alloy;

Liturgist: Humbly now we bow before Thee and our all to Thee resign;

People: For the kingdom, power and glory are, O Lord, forever Thine.

*Gloria Patri

Unison Opening Prayer (*Derived from Hebrews 11:1-3*)

Liturgist

Gracious God, we approach you with the faith you have placed within us, with the faith we have received through our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. That faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By that faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin (*Derived from Hebrews 11:8-16 and Luke 12:22-40*)

Liturgist: **Gracious Lord, you call us forth to a new place, asking us to follow you there on faith, like you did Abraham. With your blessings through him, we are now innumerable as the grains of sand by the seashore, and yet we are still as strangers and foreigners seeking a homeland. Through our faith, we hope still for a Homeland of your providing, strengthened by our conviction of things unseen. We do confess, Lord, that on our journey with you to you, our hopes fade at times and our convictions are assaulted by the challenges and tribulations of our journey. We do confess that we worry far more about transient, passing things than we should, forgetting, at times, that this place is not our permanent home. We confess that even animals and flowers seem to live more easily than we do, trusting well in the unfolding potentials that you as Creator have placed within them. And, we do confess, Lord, that when Jesus advises us to sell our possessions and give alms, calling us His little flock and assuring us of your pleasure at giving us your Realm of Love, we still shrink away, as if something utterly impossible has been asked of us. We do confess that when our Jesus tells us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also, we recoil at the shock of our honest self-assessments, for our loves and desires are distorted. Gracious Lord, clear the clutter from our faith which is there to shine brightly for us. Rouse us from our stupors and quicken our attention to the coming of the One who has made, does make and will make our journey to you with Him ultimately fulfilling, even our Jesus Christ Himself, who beckons us to his Banquet Table. Amen.**

The Kyrie and Assurance of Pardon -- Amen Sung

Witness of Faith

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer *{we pray debts}*

Children's Moment

Anthem

“Blessed Are the Pure in Heart”

Carter

Proclamation of the Word

The New Testament Reading

Luke 12:22-31 and 32-40 (Page #949 of Pew Bible)

Sermon

LIGHTENING THE BAGGAGE FOR THE JOURNEY

Response Through Dedication

Invitation to Give

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Liturgist

Merciful and compassionate God, may these gifts reflect our gradually clearing awareness of what is important on our journey with you and what is not. May the cheer and the generosity which you have placed within our hearts be the very heart of our gifts at this Altar, that these very offerings may be blessed with the aroma of the Homeland toward which we journey together, a foretaste of the Great Banquet which we will share with our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Preparation for Obedience in the World

*Hymn

“Lord, Thou Lovest the Cheerful Giver”

No. 260

*Responsive Call to Dedication

Liturgist: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

People: Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

*The Benediction

*Postlude

***THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND**

WE WELCOME VISITORS who are attending our service of worship today. **EVERYONE** is requested to sign the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. We request visitors also to note their addresses and telephone numbers.

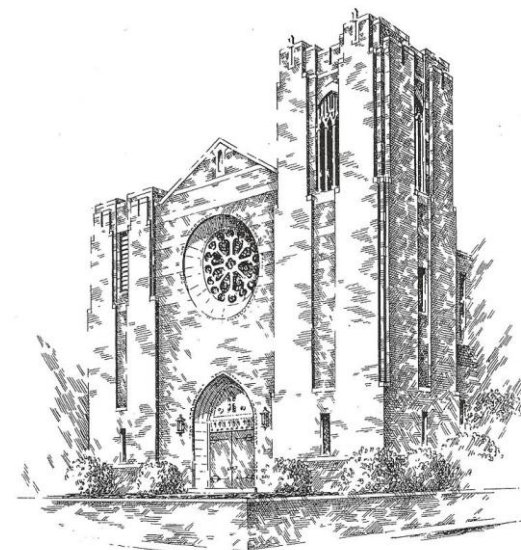
PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: There will be a brief meeting, in the parlor, immediately following the worship service.

Church Staff

Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D., Intentional Interim Minister
Cathy Waitman, Interim Director of Christian Education
Lee Ann Peele, Organist

(Cell #336-420-2728 Home #336-632-1985)
Paul Freeman, Choir Director
Paula Lopp, Administrative Asst

First Reformed United Church of Christ



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The Love of God

The Power to Love Others

The Ability to Love Ourselves

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