

Chalmers

United Church



10:30 AM SUNDAY, OCT. 20, 2024
REV. ELIZABETH GUILLAUME-KOENE
"TAKING RISKS"

COVID PRECAUTIONS

1. Self-screening guidelines: If you have Covid symptoms or are isolating due to close contact, you should not attend in person. Services are also live-streamed.
2. Masking is encouraged but no longer mandatory.
Many will still choose to remain masked for their own or for others' safety. We welcome this choice and urge everyone to respect individuals' choices - each according to their own personal situation.
3. Social distancing is encouraged in the sanctuary and MacCallum Hall.

Bold Text indicates the parts that everyone reads together.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Andante sostenuto - Felix Mendelssohn

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

The lands on which we are gathering today are the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of the Huron-Wendat, Metis, Inuit and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We deeply respect the many generations of people who have cared for this land and whose spiritualities, teachings and ways of knowing are closely tied to it. We seek to build right relations with these Peoples, to learn from them and to live together on this land with respect and gratitude.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We light this candle to remind us that Christ is the light of the world and present in our midst.

All: May the life and words of Jesus enlighten us on our way.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader 1: Come with what you have.

For you who grieve this day
know that you are invited to bring the broken pieces of your heart.

**All: Loved by one another,
we discover God's love for us.**

Reader 2: One: Come with what you have.

For you who come with gladness
know that your melody will find harmony.

**All: Accepting God's love for us,
we are called to love one another.**

Reader 1: Come with what you have.

For you weighed down by too many 'shoulds' and 'what-ifs'
know that here you may lay down the burdens of guilt and shame.

**All: Loved by one another,
we discover God's love for us.**

Reader 2: Come with what you have.

For you who have the answers, know that new questions await
you.

**All: Accepting God's love for us,
we are called to love one another.**

Reader 1: Come with what you have. For you who come seeking,
know that your questions are safe in the presence of God.

**All: Loved by one another,
we discover God's love for us.**

~ written by Katherine Hawker, posted on *Outside the Box*. <http://liturgyoutside.net/>

CENTERING PRAYER

One: One: Let us pray that we may respond
to God's trust in us.
God, our kind and loving Creator,
you no longer call us servants but friends.
**All: There is so much you have entrusted to us,
even the future of your kingdom of justice and love.**
One: Give us the grace to work out with you
the growth of mercy and goodness in this world,
to be united with all Christians
and with all who seek you with a sincere heart
in bringing reconciliation and joy to everyone.
**All: Let us go together the way to you,
our living and loving God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

—from *Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration*.

HYMN VU 262 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
power and malice great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.

2 Did we in our strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
the truth to triumph through us:
the prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Christ, who with us sideth:

let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
God's kingdom is forever.

Words: Martin Luther 1529, trans. Frederick H. Hedge 1853
Music: melody Martin Luther 1529, harm. from The New Hymnal for American Youth 1930,
desc. Scott Withrow, Desc. ©1980 GIA Pub Inc.
Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicence.net

A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: **Holy One, Sacred Mystery, greater than words can express;
whose love for us and all creation exceeds our capacity to
imagine, open our hearts and minds to hear afresh your Word to
us today. Amen**

READING

Matthew 25: 14 - 30

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN VU 292 *Creating God, We Give You Thanks*

- 1 Creating God, we give you thanks
that this your world is incomplete;
that battle calls our marshalled ranks,
that work awaits our hands and feet.
- 2 You hast not finished woman, man,
for we are in the making still,
as friends who share the Maker's plan
as those who know your loving will.
- 3 Beyond the present sin and shame,
wrong's bitter, cruel, scorching blight,
we see the beckoning vision flame,
the blessèd kingdom of the right.
- 4 What though the kingdom long delay,
and still with haughty foes must cope?
It gives us that for which to pray,
a field for toil and faith and hope.
- 5 Since what we choose is what we are,
and what we love we yet shall be,
the goal may ever shine afar,
the will to win it makes us free.

Words: William de Witt Hyde 1903, alt Music: William Knapp 1738
Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

SERMON

Taking Risks

HYMN VU 567 *Will You Come and Follow Me?*

1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you
and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you
and you in me?

4 Will you love the "you" you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and
sound in you and you in me?

5 Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Words: The Iona Community 1987 Music: Scottish Traditional, arr. Iona Community 1987
Words and arrangement © 1987 WGRG, The Iona Community, G.I.A. Pub. Chicago exclusive agent Used
by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

HYMN VU 540 *Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving*

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Words: anonymous Music: attrib. Christian F. Witt, Psalmodia Sacra 1715,
adapt. Henry John Gauntlett 1861
Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**O Great Spirit, we honour your name as sacred and holy.
Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in
the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below.
Provide for us day by day - the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.
The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.
All the things we need for each day.**

Release us from the things we have done wrong, in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us. Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways. May it be so! Amen.

HYMN VU 417 *God, as We Rise to Leave*

1 God, as we rise to leave the shell of worship,
called to the risk of unprotected living,
willing to be at one with all your people,
we ask for courage.

2 For all the strain with living interwoven,
for the demands each day will make upon us,
and for the love we owe the modern city,
Lord, make us cheerful.

3 Give us an eye for openings to serve you;
make us alert when calm is interrupted,
ready and wise to use the unexpected;
sharpen our insight.

4 Life from our life the blanket of convention;
give us the nerve to lose ourselves to others;
be with your church in death and resurrection,
God of all ages.

Words: Fred Kaan 1968 Music: Johann Cruger 1653
Words © 1968 Hope Pub. Co. Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

BENEDICTION

One: Growing God, we have known your presence.

All: We have lived in your love.

One: Show us your glory.

All: Reveal your glory in us.

One: We will carry your glory from here.

All: We will show it to all your children. Amen.

~ written by the Rev. Elsa A. Peters, Pastor of the First Congregational UCC
in South Portland, ME. She blogs at <http://impossiblethingswithgod.blogspot.com/>

CHORAL BENEDICTION

2X

HYMN VU 298 *When You Walk from Here*

When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
Walk with justice, walk with mercy and with God's humble care.

Words and Music: Linnea Good 1991 © Borealis Music
. Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

POSTLUDE

Allegro Vivo - L Raffy (d. 1931)

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Minister	Rev. Elizabeth Guillaume-Koene is trained as an Intentional Interim Minister and Spiritual Director in the Reformed tradition. She lives in Bowmanville with her husband, three boys and a small menagerie of critters. She spends her spare time gardening, playing board games and at their cabin up north.
Organist	Juliet Milsome
Co-Liturgist	Margot Craft
Hymn Singers	Members of Chalmers United Church
Media Techs	Ahmad Spierij, Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
Reader	Jane MacEwen
Refreshments	Al Fletcher
Counter	Mike Hartlin
Autumn Décor	Carol Sleeth
After the service	you are invited to share in refreshments and fellowship at the back of the Sanctuary.

At 10:30 join us in person at Chalmers or watch live-streamed on Chalmers YouTube channel. The service will also be posted later to the same channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgl1tZaiRjj18sFwj2P2Q>
The link for Chalmers' YouTube channel can also found on the home page. www.chalmersunitedchurch.org.

Fall decorations are a reminder to us
to be grateful for
Thanksgiving Blessings
and our beautiful Autumn Season.

