

Season Of Pentecost
Allin Congregational Church, UCC
September 6, 2020

Prelude

Deep River

Traditional Spiritual

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Psalm 149

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron, to execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the Lord!

HYMN

Every Time I Feel the Spirit
Becky DesRoches

Traditional Spiritual

INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Praise God!

All: Sing to God a new song!

One: Give thanks to our Maker.

All: We rejoice in our sovereign God.

One: Let us praise God with dancing and music.

All: Let the faithful sing for joy as we praise God together!

One: As we gather here in your name, O Christ,
you are already among us.

**All: Keep us open to your presence in us and around us
that we may grow closer to you.**

**We pray and worship in the name of our Savior who taught us to pray
saying,**

**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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE read by Judy Massey

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

ANTHEM *I Don't Know How to Love Him, from Superstar* Webber and Rice

SERMON ***I Don't Know How to Love THEM*** Rev. Cheryl Kerr

POSTLUDE *Improv on the Saints* Bob Lague

ZOOM COMMUNION SERVICE

Join Zoom Meeting

Email the office for the link: allinchurch@gmail.com

COMMUNION LITURGY (written by Maren Tirabassi with Matt 14:13-21 (sharing of the loaves and fishes) in mind - offered via zoom

INVITATION

Christ's invitation is simple —

sit down where you are.

You don't need to run off somewhere else —

not a nearby village market or a familiar sanctuary,

communion is where you are — sit down.

The disciples complained —

it is a deserted place and the hour is late.

Jesus said, "They need not go away."

No one needs to go away.

No one is deserted and no one is late —

not you who are alone,

because you are vulnerable to virus

or you who would feel alone

even in a not-distancing crowd

because something

has made your life a wilderness.

Jesus has compassion on every crowd,

healing them, even the hungers,

one by one by one.

Here is green grass,

someone to help you sit down,

someone to help you stand up again,

someone to bless Communion,

so it will be enough,

and break it into pieces you can handle.

Sit down where you are.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Leader: In the story about feeding a multitude, Jesus asked that people bring to him what they had. You have done that today. In your many kitchens and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. We ask God's blessing on them to make them enough and also to make them abundant for us and for all those who are in our prayers this morning.

Unison: God of compassion, you bless and break everything we are and everything we bring to you. Our deep scarcity becomes enough to sustain us, and then our "enough" becomes an abundance we could never imagine. We pray that your Spirit of life and love, of tenderness and power, rest upon every bread and every cup, that they may feed the inmost need of each child of God and pour forth a grace that can change the world. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Amen.

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

Leader: We remember the Creator fed the aurora borealis and ocean depths, pterodactyls and diatoms, all we see now that grows and breathes, all that swims, swarms, slithers, all that runs, flies, leaps and loves.

We remember Jesus Christ played vintner at a wedding feast, rubbed elbows with Zacchaeus' friends, taught the disciples they should not substitute anything like stone or snake for really important menus like reduced lunch, 68 hours, soup kitchen food pantry or meals on wheels, and, in the midst of profound grief for cousin John's death, expanded the disciples' understanding of the hope recipe in bread crust and fish scraps,

and then, when they forgot ... did it again.

We always remember a Passover in Jerusalem when Jesus borrowed an upper room, soaked and scrubbed the tired feet of others, and explained that there is a God-shaped hole in everyone's belly and Jesus would fill it with love.

Today, though, we also remember that day on the hill. A day that was about hunger and thirst and compassion and mystery. We remember that, before they even thought about food, Jesus healed the sick with his compassion. But then the crowds would not go away because the food of mercy and the drink of righteousness is addictive and the people wanted more!

But the disciples, in all of their logic and reason, did the numbers and they did not add up. Turns out they were using the wrong abacus.

The disciples cried, "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,"
But Jesus replied, "Bring them here to me," he said. And after directing the people to sit down on the grass, he took the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate that day was about five thousand men, besides women and children. Today it is infinitely more.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Leader: The bread on your table is blessed and broken like the picnic of grace.

Unison: Sharing love, we will never be hungry.

(pause while we eat and receive the bread of life)

Leader: The cup on your table is blessed and shared like the overflowing of tears and joy

Unison: Drinking deeply, we will never thirst.

(pause while we eat and receive the cup of righteousness)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: In thanksgiving for the meal that heals yesterday and the unexpected grace that empowers tomorrow, we pray for the wisdom to give away as fast as possible some twelve baskets of leftovers ...

O Holy One, as we received this sacrament in the holy dispersion of virtual worship, we thought we "ordered" from a select gourmet menu, and never expected to become the curbside pickup of your love and justice, of your compassion and courage, of your hope and healing for all of your children who need a meal in a deserted place. Help us gather the leftovers from the miracles in our lives and give them away. Amen.