



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ENFIELD (ENFIELD, CT)

LAITY SUNDAY ☞ OCTOBER 11, 2020

GUIDE FOR IN-PERSON AND ONLINE WORSHIP

We Gather in God's Name

Gathering

Welcome

Announcements

***Joyful Noise in Praise of God – Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty**

(We'll be making a joyful noise through congregational percussion instead of congregational singing.)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Opening Prayer

**Holy God, we come into your midst
with praise on our lips
and songs of joy in our hearts.**

**We come to stand firm in our conviction:
that good is stronger than evil,
that love is stronger than hate,
that truth will ultimately win the day.**

**Keep our hearts focused on things
that are worthy of praise,
and bless us with your peace—
a peace that passes all understanding.**

**Keep our minds grounded in Christ Jesus,
that we may know the joy of your justice
and your righteousness. Amen.**

We Proclaim and Respond to God's Word

Scripture Reading – Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. AMEN

Musical Reflection – *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* (solo)

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to the throne thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise the Lord for grace and favor
to all people in distress;
praise God, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious now God's faithfulness.

Scripture Reading - Exodus 32:1-14

1 When the people realized that Moses was taking forever in coming down off the mountain, they rallied around Aaron and said, "Do something. Make gods for us who will lead us. That Moses, the man who got us out of Egypt—who knows what's happened to him?"

2 So Aaron told them, "Take off the gold rings from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters and bring them to me." 3 They all did it; they removed the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took the gold from their hands and cast it in the form of a calf, shaping it with an engraving tool. The people responded with enthusiasm: "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up from Egypt!"

5 Aaron, taking in the situation, built an altar before the calf. Aaron then announced, "Tomorrow is a feast day to God!"

6 Early the next morning, the people got up and offered Whole-Burnt-Offerings and brought Peace-Offerings. The people sat down to eat and drink and then began to party. It turned into a wild party!

7 God spoke to Moses, "Go! Get down there! Your people whom you brought up from the land of Egypt have fallen to pieces. 8 In no time at all they've turned away from the way I commanded them: They made a molten calf and worshiped it. They've sacrificed to it and said, 'These are the gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt!'"

9 God said to Moses, "I look at this people-oh! what a stubborn, hard-headed people! 10 Let me alone now, give my anger free reign to burst into flames and incinerate them. But I'll make a great nation out of you."

11 Moses tried to calm his God down. He said, "Why, God, would you lose your temper with your people? Why, you brought them out of Egypt in a tremendous demonstration of power and strength. 12 Why let the Egyptians say, 'He had it in for them-he brought them out so he could kill them in the mountains, wipe them right off the face of the Earth.' Stop your anger. Think twice about bringing evil against your people! 13 Think of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants to whom you gave your word, telling them 'I will give you many children, as many as the stars in the sky, and I'll give this land to your children as their land forever.'"

14 And God did think twice. He decided not to do the evil he had threatened against his people.

Sermon

Silent Reflection

Concerns and Celebrations from the Online Community

Intercessory Prayer

Lord's Prayer

We Give Thanks for God's Gifts

Giving Our Tithes, Offerings and Other Gifts

Offertory Prayer

God of steadfast love, your bounty knows no bounds.
For the abundant gifts in our lives,
we thank you.
For the peace that passes all understanding,
we praise you.
For keeping our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,
we honor you.
Receive the gifts we bring you this day,
and help us stay focused
on things that are excellent and admirable,
holy and just, righteous and pure. Amen.

We Go Forth In God's Name

***Joyful Noise in Praise of God – I Am Thine, O Lord**

(We'll be making a joyful noise through congregational percussion instead of congregational singing.)

*I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice,
and it told thy love to me;
but I long to rise in the arms of faith
and be closer drawn to thee.*

[Refrain]

*Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where thou hast died.
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to thy precious, bleeding side.*

*Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord,
by the power of grace divine;
let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
and my will be lost in thine.*

[Refrain]

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you – wherever you travel this week.

Sending Ritual – Sharing Christ's Peace with Each Other & the World

*Please feel free to stand – wherever you are!

Credits: Prayers & litanies adapted from "From The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017. Copyright © 2016 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission." "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" #64; "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" #66; "I Am Thine, O Lord" #419 from The *United Methodist Hymnal* (© The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989) used with permission.