

St. John's United Church of Christ
September 12, 2021
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Please stand as you are able, in body or in Spirit.

Gathering Song (words on screen)

"Find a Home Here"

Unison Welcome

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

Announcements

Passing of the Peace
with you"

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also

Prelude

*Call to Worship
Enfleshed

from

We gather in the presence of God encounter Love that sets free.

We do not come seeking crumbs of justice but a way of life that liberates.

Together, we practice courage in resisting evil and rejecting the temptations of complicity and complacency.

The Spirit leads us in power and truth.

Our faith is placed in Love Eternal that lifts broken spirits and brings new life from places of ruin.

With hope that is neither narrow nor fragile, we come to follow Christ.

*Hymn #27
Broken"

"Morning Has

*Prayer of the Day

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

God of love, you teach us a life journey that calls us to deny what is unhealthy and unloving. Lead us in that pathway. Awaken us to the ever-new abundance that is ours through your Word, in the name of the one who died and rose, Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

You speak to us, Lord, with tongues of wisdom. Let your Holy Spirit open us to hear with greater clarity the teachings of today, that we may hold dear in yet new ways what it is you will for us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Reading
3:1-12

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James

Children's Sermon
Davenport

Roxanne

Reception of New Members (attached and on screen)

Anthem
Wagner

"For Where Love Is, There Is God"

Douglas E.

Scripture Reading
8:27-38

Mark

Sermon
Saxton

Rev. Caroline E.

Musical Meditation

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Our Savior (debts)

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

We share in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those attending in-person worship have the option to use pre-packaged elements or bring elements with them from home.

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Worship

from the UCC Book of

**We give thanks, Gracious God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,
and in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*Hymn #19

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

*Invitation to Giving

*Commission & Benediction
Companion

from Feasting on the Word Worship

Take up your cross and follow Jesus. Do not be afraid of what may come. You lose what you wish to safeguard only by holding onto it with too great a desperation. Set your mind on what Christ Jesus has done.

May the God who made you, loved you, and lives with you, bring you to a faith that cannot be weighted down and a courage that knows no bounds.

Postlude

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If you are ill, have a fever, or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, we respectfully ask that you remain at home.

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are in birthday memory of Jack A. Davenport with love.

Worship Resources: Portions of the liturgy were adapted from *enfleshed, Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* and the *UCC Book of Worship*.

Worship Participants	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman
Organist	Gloria Crum
Deacon in Charge	Mike Blumberg
Lector	Arlene McFate
Children's Sermon	Roxanne Davenport
Hospitality Team	
Media Coordinator	David Frantz and Connie Morrill-Hair

Welcome to our new members! We are so glad you are here!