

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Online You Tube Worship
October 25, 2020 9:30 A.M.



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

251 Union Ave, Rutherford, NJ 07070
(201) 438-6324
www.rccucc.com

Rev. Dr. N. Barry Dancy - Pastor

Susan LaFever, Director of Music
Muriel Corradino, Office Administrator

susanlaf@optonline.net
muriel@rccucc.com

WELCOME

Welcome to online YOU TUBE worship with the Rutherford Congregational Church. We extend you a warm welcome and pray that you will find worship this morning meaningful, your faith renewed and nourished, and that you are inspired to go out and ...

“do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.”

For your benefit, a link to the PDF of this morning’s order of worship is posted on the church’s home page, www.rccucc.com.

Throughout this pandemic, a reminder, that here in this local congregation of the United Church of Christ, now more than ever, *‘No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.’*

Music included in this morning’s service is reproduced under
CCLI License#650150

CENTERING MUSIC

Romanza op.36
Edward Elgar

CALL TO WORSHIP

[Spoken by Pastor & Liturgist, alternating:]

One: In autumn beauty blue sky and golden land are clothed.
Apple-gathering children and nut-gathering squirrels
alike prepare for winter.

All: **In our tradition, harvest is a time of rejoicing
in God’s natural bounty and the ingathering of our lives.**

One: We praise God for all we have received.
Seasons turn but God’s love is changeless.

All: **We praise God for all we have received.
Maple leaves dancing, crisp breezes blowing,
the good news stories of Jesus’ sojourn in Galilee,
and the restless winds of the Spirit rushing through our lives –
All these assure us of God’s faithful presence.**

INVOCATION

Rev. Dancy

HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past (vv 1,2,5)
William Croft

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream fades at the opening day.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

[Spoken by Liturgist]

**Gracious God, we confess
that our hearts are closed tight against your love and mercy.
We hold on to un-love for ourselves,
resentment against those for whom we care
anger at our helplessness,
and complicity in the structures of society.
We have protected ourselves emotionally, socially, and spiritually;
and our selfishness has nourished the pain of the world
rather than its hope.
Open, loosen, and unbind us, God.
Enable our frozen hearts to love,
our clenched hands to help,
and our stifled spirits to breathe and pray,
in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Dancy

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 22: 24-46(NRSV)

[Spoken by the Liturgist]

The Question about Paying Taxes

²⁴ “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.’ ²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. ²⁶ The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. ²⁷ Last of all, the woman herself died. ²⁸ In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her.”

²⁹ Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels^[b] in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, ³² ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is God not of the dead, but of the living.” ³³ And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.

The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The Question about David’s Son

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah?^[c] Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit^[d] calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Footnotes

- a. [Matthew 22:23](#) Other ancient authorities read *who say that there is no resurrection*
- b. [Matthew 22:30](#) Other ancient authorities add *of God*
- c. [Matthew 22:42](#) Or *Christ*
- d. [Matthew 22:43](#) *Gk in spirit*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Keeping Faith
Lyrics Fred Dammers
Music G.Deman

Keeping Faith throughout the years,
Still growing strong we worship here,
Reaching Out to all around,
Throughout the world, throughout this town.
Welcoming All into this place,
To pray and to serve for Jesus' sake.

For yesterdays, all our tomorrows,
We trust in God's almighty power,
Join in our journey in Christ's call,
Keeping Faith, Reaching Out, Welcoming All.

For a hundred years and still today,
We come to worship God in thanks and praise,

Keeping Faith throughout the years,
Still growing strong we worship here,
Reaching Out to all around,
Throughout the world, throughout this town.
Join in our journey in Christ's call,
Keeping Faith, Reaching Out, Welcoming All.

SERMON

"The Greatest Commandment" Rev. Dr. N. Barry Dancy

HYMN

Take My Life, God, Let It Be (vv 1,2,3)
Justin H. Knecht

[Music: Susan LaFever will play the hymn through once.]

[Spoken by Pastor & Liturgist, alternating:]

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow increase-less praise.

Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dancy

Prayer of our Savior

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. AMEN**

TIME OF OFFERING

Invitation

Rev. Dancy

Music

Andante Sostenuto
Henry M. Dunham

Prayer of Dedication

[Spoken by the Liturgist]

**Ever-present God, just as Jesus promised to be among us
when two or three gather in his name,
be among us now that these offerings
may become instruments of your love and justice.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen**

HYMN

When Peace, Like a River (vv1,2)
Philip Bliss

[*Music: Susan LaFever will play the hymn through once.*]
[*Spoken by Pastor & Liturgist, alternating:*]

When peace like a river, upholds me each day, when
sorrows like sea billows roll, Whatever my lot, you have
taught me to say, “it is well, it is well with my soul.”

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come, let
this blessed assurance control, That Christ has regarded my
helpless estate, and has paid life and blood for my soul:

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dancy

POSTLUDE

Reprise
Paul Manz

Joys & Concerns **Sunday, October 18, 2020**

Prayer Concerns -

- Ellen Dammers asked for prayers for Alycia who has been ill for several days; she had the Covid test and it was negative. She will return to work next week.
- Carol Marshall asked for prayers for:
 - Ellen Dammers who has been diagnosed with Lymphoma and is waiting for treatment.
 - Alex Partyka who had a stroke and is in rehab.
 - Eileen & Chuck Eastham, Chuck has been homebound for a while and Eileen had melanoma surgery, but all looks good.
- Carol Anderson asked for prayers for her friend Martin who has fallen again for the third time in four weeks.

Thanksgivings -

- Carol Marshall is pleased that:
 - Alycia is feeling better and she hosted a wonderful Sunday School class today.
 - A Confirmation Class will begin this coming week.
 - Pleased With the outcome of those who helped with the Family Promise Meal on Friday.
 - Praise God for Bible Study and the Book Club which continues
 - Thankful for all the people that make things happen at church and that the church continues.
- Ellen Dammers mentioned that 150 meals are served every night at the Family Promise Meal in Hackensack and how important this Mission is to those in need.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

May we remember and pray for the health and concerns of:

Catherine (Cat) Desmond
Rae Fisher
Carol MacPhail
The DiNapoli Family
Alycia Desmond

Carin Fougner
Ruth Simpson
Nora Esposito
Chuck & Eileen Eastham
Ellen Dammers

For the week of Sunday, Oct 18, 2020

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Giving Revenues (Pledged Income, Member Gifts, Non-Member/Misc Gifts, and Open Plate):			
For Sunday, 10/18/20:	\$ 1,655	\$ 252	\$ (1,404)
YTD Giving Revenues as of 10/18/20:	69,510	78,328	8,818
YTD All Other Revenues as of 10/18/20:	36,086	16,241	(19,845)
	<u>105,596</u>	<u>94,569</u>	<u>(11,027)</u>
Anticipated annual deficit per approved budget:			<u>(23,344)</u>
			<u>(34,371)</u>
\$ Gifts In Kind This Week:		0.00	
\$ YTD Gifts In Kind, as of 10/18/2020:		1,500.12	
Attendance 10/18/2020:		<u>8</u>	In House
Attendance Average:		<u>14</u>	In House

20 YouTube Views

22 YouTube Views