

RUTHERFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

251 Union Ave, Rutherford, NJ 07070

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www.rccucc.com

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

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 25, 2016, 10:30 A.M.

For those of you unfamiliar with our worship service, please note:

- We invite your active participation in word or song where noted in **bold type**.
- Please stand in body or spirit at the *.
- The sanctuary is equipped for us to provide you with **hearing-assist devices** if they would be helpful during our worship celebration. Please see Fred Dammers, seated at the soundboard located in the left rear corner of the sanctuary, for assistance.
- **'Check-in' on Facebook** and let everyone know you are here at worship!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"I Will Never Part From God"

M. Dupre'

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When life seems hopeless, God invites us to have hope.

All: Let's worship the God of hope.

One: When life seems scary and uncertain, God invites us to dream.

All: Let's worship the God of dreams.

One: When we are unsure about what lies ahead, God promises to be with us.

All: Let's worship the God of new tomorrows.

* INVOCATION

Jane O. Sorensen

Holy God, who is both near and far,

huge beyond measure and as tiny as a mustard seed:

to you we come.

We come to worship,

to sing your praise

to seek your help

to learn your ways.

Help us to open our minds to all that you are:

You contain all genders

all melodies

all colors

all languages.

Our limited human understanding seeks to name
 who you are and how you are,
 and all our words and all our images fall short.
Keep us mindful, dear God, that our language may fall short
 but that you never do.
Holy God, to you we come.
Open our hearts and our minds to you.

* OPENING HYMN #408 – All My Hope on God Is Founded

Michael

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Donald Schmidt

When we cloud the air with senseless words,
God have mercy.
When we bend your ear for our own greed, ignoring the needs of others,
God have mercy.
When we silence the cries for justice of those around us,
God have mercy.
When we ignore the voice of the Christ in our midst,
God have mercy.
When we fail to praise you with our words and actions,
God have mercy.

Silent confession.....

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Maren C. Tirabassi

God clears the air, untangles the listening, lifts the tongue, pays attention, ignites
our hearts – by free and festive forgiveness.

* WE SING IN RESPONSE

(#759) - *Gloria Patri*

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

* WE OFFER EACH OTHER THE SIGN OF PEACE

Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

Fred Dammers, Guitar

*Make me a channel of your peace, where there is hatred let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord; and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Make me a channel of your peace, where there's despair in life let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness only light, and where there's sadness ever joy.
O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.
Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG FOLK

WE READ FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 (NRSV)

Jeremiah Buys a Field During the Siege

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. 2 At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, 3 where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him. *Zedekiah had said, "Why do you prophesy and say: Thus says the Lord: I am going to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it; 4 King Zedekiah of Judah shall not escape out of the hands of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be given into the hands of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him face to face and see him eye to eye; 5 and he shall take Zedekiah to Babylon, and there he shall remain until I attend to him, says the Lord; though you fight against the Chaldeans, you shall not succeed?"*

6 Jeremiah said, The word of the Lord came to me: 7 Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." 8 Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.

9 And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. 11 Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; 12 and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. 13 In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, 14 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. 15 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

SERMON

Rev. Ronald E. Verblaauw

* HYMN OF RESPONSE

Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless
Hyfrydol

Let us hope when hope seems hope-less, when the dreams we dreamed have died.

*When the morn-ing breaks in bright-ness, hun-ger shall be sat-is-fied.
One who sows the fields with weep-ing shall retrace the sor-row-ing way
and re-joice in har-vest boun-ty at the break-ing of the day.*

*Faith and hope in love's com-pas-sion will sur-vive though knowl-edge cease,
though the tongues of joy fall si-lent, dull the words of proph-e-cies.
Faith shall see and trust its ob-ject; hope shall set its an-chor sure;
love shall bloom in Love e-ter-nal. Faith and hope and love en-dure.*

*Like a child out-grow-ing child-hood, set-ting child-hood things a-way,
we will learn to live in free-dom, in the life of God's new day.
Now we see as in a mir-ror. Then we shall see face to face,
un-der-stand how love's com-pas-sion blos-soms through a-maz-ing Grace.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer

All this we pray in the name of, Jesus Christ, 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 sins, as we forgive those that sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen.

OFFERTORY

Invitation

We brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of the world. Let us give both the gifts we have been given and our truest selves with glad and generous hearts.

Music for meditation

* Response

Old Hundredth

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

* Dedicatory Prayer

God who gives life to all things,

**and richly provides us with everything,
use these, our offerings, to take hold of,
and show us, the life that really is. Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN #436 - God of Grace and God of Glory *Cwm Rhondda*
(vv. 1 - 3 & 5)

* BENEDICTION

May the sovereign Lord bless you,
may the Christ of mercy keep you,
and the Holy Spirit sustain you,
in this life and the life to come.

POSTLUDE "Andante Con Moto" F. Mendelssohn

The following resources were used in preparing this morning's liturgy:

Worship Resources for September 25, 2016, *The Whole People of God*, Copyright by Wood Lake Publishing.

"The Wide Window of Our Spirits: Words for Ordinary Time," *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*, Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria I. Tirabassi, Editors, (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2007).

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