

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 17, 2021

United Church of Christ – Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Substituting - Sue Vornholt

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PRELUDE *“Variations on Kum Ba Yah”*

John Behnke
Pianist Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

One: We thank God for these opportunities for
fellowship and service.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

We may come here for a glimpse of glory,
**But Jesus asks us: “Can you drink the cup that I
drink?”**

The cup of Jesus’ own life: struggle and joy;
suffering and hope. Fullness of life!

We may come here to get close to Jesus,

**And Jesus asks us: “Can you be baptized with my
baptism?”**

Baptized into the reign of God,
where the Spirit breaks down barriers among all
people and creates new relationships!

We may come here for honor or fame,

**But Jesus challenges us: “To become great you
must serve!”**

Why are we here?

To drink the cup of fullness of life;

**To immerse ourselves in Jesus’ struggle for justice
and peace;**

**To learn how to serve so that the world may be
healed.**

HYMN *“I Woke Up This Morning” # 85*

Arr. Jeffrey Radford

**I woke up this morning with my mind
(Hallelujah) stayed on Jesus,
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on
Jesus,
woke up this morning with my mind
(Hallelujah) stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.**

**Singing and praying with my mind
(Hallelujah) stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind
(Hallelujah) stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy Dwelling Place, Your tent is wide enough to
provide shelter for all who seek you, food for all
who hunger, and healing for all who suffer. Meet
us here today, and fill us with confidence in your
presence, that we may risk sharing Jesus’ cup and
his baptism so the world may become the place
of love and justice you desire for all. Shelter us
with your light, and clothe us with
your heavenly garments. Teach us how we may
best serve ourselves and one another on this
daring adventure. Amen.

CONFESSION

**Divine Shepherd, like sheep we go our own ways.
With our heads to the ground and our attention
turned elsewhere, we often fail to heed the gentle
nudge of your staff and your calls for home.
With so many things to distract us—
work, school, and the general busyness of life—
we lie unresponsive to your calls to kin-dom service.
(Moment of silence and reflection)**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Protector Jesus, you came among us in order to
shelter us from the cold of night and forests of**

danger. In your presence, we are in green pastures! In you we are forgiven, and called once again to serve, and create with you a world of justice and peace for all.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10:35-45

³⁵ James and John, Zebedee's sons, came up to him. "Teacher, we have something we want you to do for us." ³⁶ "What is it? I'll see what I can do." ³⁷

"Arrange it," they said, "so that we will be awarded the highest places of honor in your glory—one of us at your right, the other at your left." ³⁸ Jesus said, "You have no idea what you're asking. Are you capable of drinking the cup I drink, of being baptized in the baptism I'm about to be plunged into?"

³⁹⁻⁴⁰ "Sure," they said. "Why not?" Jesus said, "Come to think of it, you will drink the cup I drink, and be baptized in my baptism. But as to awarding places of honor, that's not my business. There are other arrangements for that." ⁴¹⁻⁴⁵ When the other ten heard of this conversation, they lost their tempers with James and John. Jesus got them together to settle things down. "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around," he said, "and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads.

It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage."

THE MESSAGE FOR THE DAY Sue Vornholt *"A Life of Service"*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Let us pray as Christ Our Savior has taught us.

THE LORDS PRAYER

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

TESTIMONIAL

Dave Harnisch

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Jesus came not to be served but to serve. Let us follow this example and share our gifts so that we may also experience the joys and challenges of serving.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Parent God, may this offering assist us in continuing Christ's work in the world to heal the grief, transgressions, and illnesses that oppress and harm your creation. Amen.

HYMN "God Be With You" # 81 vs. 1-3

Jeremiah Rankin

God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.
Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again,
'Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still divide you,
God be with you till we meet again.
Refrain

God be with you till we meet again,
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put His arms unfailing round you,
God be with you till we meet again.
Refrain

THE BENEDICTION

Our lives are filled with struggles and suffering—none of us are immune. The key to full life in Christ is not to rise above it, but to struggle together and help one another along the way, knowing that God is with us in every moment.

This is service.

If we seek to serve and lift one another up,

committing to struggle together, together we will witness Christ's glory.
So be it!

A Life of Service: Service Prayers for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Iliff School of Theology, Denver CO.

POSTLUDE

Pianist Karen Mohr



Announcements

WELCOME - We welcome you to our service of worship!

We are glad that you have joined us in-person, through the internet or on the radio. We pray that you will experience the love of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN 98.5FM and 1370AM

We would like to thank Jim & Jim John Filitz for sponsoring this week's radio broadcast in remembrance of Jim & Anne's wedding anniversary

- **Tuesday, October 19th – 5:30 PM Trustees Meeting
6:30 PM Council Meeting**
- **Wednesday, October 20th - 6:00 PM Confirmation**
- **TODAY Sunday, October 17th 10:45-11:15 AM LUNCH GIVE AWAY, curbside pickup**
- **Anyone interested in tying quilts (no experience needed)- please contact Doris Bakker at 715-743-4215 home, or 715-613-3404 cell**
- **Every Wednesday 6:30 PM – Working on Crafts for Holiday Fair at Carla Marty residence**
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- **Our Holiday Fair is Nov. 13th and the Circle of Friends is asking for food donations of cookies, cakes, pies, bars, breads, candy, jam or jelly, etc. We could also use help in setting up and “manning” the tables. Contact Susie Karl 745-743-4464, or Carole Romens 651-359-5196 with questions**

We highly recommend everyone attending services to wear a mask and practice social distancing.