

# United Church of Clinton



*September 2, 2018*

*Worship - 10:00 am*

Pastor Rev. Lee Atherton

Ministers, The People of God

Musician, Ilana Cody

## **RINGING of the BOWL / TIME of CENTERING**

*Please use this time during the prelude in silent prayer and preparation for worship.*

### **WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL to WORSHIP** *(please stand as you are able.)*

**People:** **Creator God, help us to build a new world in the midst of the old.**

**Leader:** A world where all workers are valued.

**People:** **A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in.**

**Leader:** A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill.

**People:** **A world where those who serve and care for others are, themselves, also served and cared for.**

**Leader:** We pray for the coming of a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us.

**People:** **We ask these things knowing that you give us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.**

**All:** **Amen.**

**\*HYMN of PRAISE SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE** "Here Am I" #654

*You are invited to bring your gifts to support our outreach and mission opportunities.*

### **PRAYER of the DAY**

**Gracious God, we gather this morning in this house of worship which, thanks to your love, is our home away from home. We come to add our human voices to the chorus of praise raised by your creation! We come as we are – distracted and weary, hopeful and open – knowing that you accept us and are ever mindful of our cares and joys. Still in us now the many voices that clamor for attention, that we might center ourselves upon you. Speak to us in word and melody and quiet, that we may be renewed in our faith and strengthened for your service. Amen.**

### **\*GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen. Amen.**

*(you may be seated)*

### **PRAYERS of CONFESSION and RESTORATION**

**We are workers, God, just like you We confess that we have sometimes blindly**

pleasing to you. We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought.. Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you. We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions. We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits while others may have no job, or one that pays little and provides few benefits. Creator God, help us to be your people, working for a world where all workers are valued. A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill. And one where those who serve and care for others -- in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other places -- are, themselves, also served and cared for. It will be a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us. Amen.

### **PASSING *the* PEACE**

In the spirit of worship, and abiding in Christ's love, let us turn to one another singing "Peace Be with You". Please be seated when the music ends.

### **\*HYMN**

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

#97

### **SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS *and* GLIMPSES of GOD**

*You are invited to share your concern or celebration briefly so that all who wish will have time to share. Please consider the privacy of other's information.*

### **PASTOR'S PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE** "Breathe on me Breath of God"

### **PRESENTING OUR GIFTS *to* GOD**

**HYMN of DEDICATION** "Trust and Obey"

#566

### **\*SONG of PRAISE (#46 in Hymnal)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER of DEDICATION**

**We dedicate this money as one evidence of our stewardship, loving God. Our silver and gold have no value except as they are invested according to your**

purposes. Our lives gain value as we give our time and talents in loving service. Use all that we have and give to build the community you intend, through Christ our Lord.

**SCRIPTURE** *Song of Solomon:2 : 18-13*

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

**UNISON PRAYER**

Al Spirit Life, may this water be a sign and symbol of your presence and power, for without water there is no life. Wherever this water is present and however it is used in ritual, may it be a reminder of our shared stories and histories as well as the life-affirming power of our covenantal faith community, the sacredness and worth of each human life, and the power of love. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMN** "I Come with Joy"

#420

**INVITATION (You are invited to speak the words in bold.)**

**May the impartial God be with you!**

**And also with you!**

**Lift your hearts to the One who anoints you with the Spirit.**

**We come to God, our hearts' true delight.**

**Sing praise to God, who calls you to the waters of life.**

**Songs of thanksgiving are lifted to the One who prepared this Table for us.**

**In a wild whisper you spoke to chaos, God of the waters of life, and your Spirit raced forth, playing tag with the Word, mountains shook with thunder, whales whispered in the oceans, hawks floated lazily in the skies, and kittens chased butterflies in fields. You created us from the dusty earth, placing us in your garden of wonders so we might delight in you, and in each other. But we wandered away from you, as sin and death took us by the hand, teaching us to do all that is wrong. Prophets came in every age to testify about your hopes, but we did not want to be set free from our captivity. So Jesus was sent, your future coming over the horizon to us to be baptized as your Beloved. With those who bend but do not break, with those who long to do what is right,**

**we lift our thanksgiving songs to you:**

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of impartial love. All creation gives you the glory**

**Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who is your heart's true delight.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**We glorify your name, Holy God, and bless Jesus, your Child, our Savior. Lord of all, he came, not with shock and awe, but with gentleness and patience. Light of the world, he came to fan the spark of justice until it ignites throughout the world. Bearer of our sins, he died on the cross, snared in death's embrace until the tomb opened up and the Spirit came down, as you proclaimed, 'here is my Son, the Resurrected One.' As we remember our baptism into the life and death of Jesus, we speak of our faith as a mystery:**

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**Christ came, to show us God's love; Christ was baptized, inviting us into the waters of life; Christ died, to fulfill all righteousness; Christ was raised, to set us free from death; Christ will come to take us by the hand and never let go.**

### **MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

**You spread the Table before us, the Spirit anointing the bread and cup and those gathered in this place of water and of Word. We take the broken bread, it's healing grace strengthening us to open eyes blinded by hate, to free all imprisoned by fear, to feed those who hunger for justice. We share the Cup of salvation, it's tender love nourishing us to offer balm to the hurting, to bring light to those who lose their way, to not give up on the oppressed until justice is served. Then, when all righteousness is fulfilled and we are gathered with people from all times and from every place, we will join our voices to give you the glory, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER (sung)**

**The Lords Prayer**

**#308**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Bountiful God, at this table you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. May we who have reached out our hands to receive your grace be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth in our lives; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom and worship you with all your saints forever. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work for your praise and glory. Amen.**

**\*SENDIN HYMN**

*"This is My Song"*

**#722**

**BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

**BELL and POSTLUDE**

***Our worship has ended ~ Let our service begin!***

**New Joys and Concerns, Ongoing Prayers**

† Linda Wheeler and her mom Janice as they celebrate the birth of Linda's granddaughter, Leilani! Congratulations!

† Bonnie Clark who is recovering from hand surgery.

† Gloria Nillson is home from rehab!

Sara Houghton

Bill Yacopucci

Rachael and Kevin III

Larry Gilman, Jr

Teressa Sontag

Tyler Bauman & Family

Bill Cummins

Dolly Duca

Cathy Darazio

Bob Wheeler

Scott Maynard

Carol and Steve Granger

**The Week Ahead**

**Sunday, September 1**

10:00am

Worship

**Tuesday, September 4**

7:00pm

Grief Group

**Wednesday, September 5**

7:00pm

Social Justice

7:30pm

Council

**Sunday, September 16**

After Worship

Conf. Orientation

**Sunday, September 23**

10:00 Am

Outdoor Worship

**Sunday, September 16**

9:00am

Transformation Sunday

## **Happenings at United Church**

(Please notify the church office with any events or meetings.)

**A spaghetti supper and raffle will be held on October 6, 5-6:30 pm** in Marquardt Hall sponsored by the Vitality Team and Servants in Faith. The proceeds of this event will support a program "Churches Alive" a program from October through spring of self-discovery, discipline and community involvement.

**We're getting close to Rally Sunday on September 9th** where we'll kick off our Church Year. Spread the word to your friends and family that all are welcome to United Church – no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey. Children are welcome to worship and to our "Dig In" Sunday School!

**As we welcome returning and new visitors to our Community, it is very important for all of us to wear name tags** – not only to worship, but to coffee hour as well. Help our newcomers feel welcome by letting them know who you are. If you need a name tag, please add your name to the sign up sheet in Marquardt Hall (to the right as you enter the hall).

**Sunday, September 23 is Peace Sunday - worship will be outdoors.** Bring your chairs and blankets, and maybe a snack or two and join in celebrating and praying for peace!

**Our Spare Change Collection** will support The Item Appeal, for community members in need. One hundred percent of its proceeds are delivered directly to neighbors who have trouble making ends meet. For more info, or to help, please visit [www.itemappeal.org](http://www.itemappeal.org).

**Why is there a place setting in the Sanctuary sometimes?** On Communion Sundays it's a reminder that we all get hungry and we all need to eat. For some, having 3 square meals a day isn't easy or even doable. The Community Café helps by offering free dinner and dessert. We take an extra collection on Communion Sundays to cover the cost of our Church's monthly donation pizza, salad, and ice cream that we provide for 60 or more. Our delivery on the 4th Monday of every month, costs about \$147:00.

## **The Vision Statement of the United Church of Clinton**

God's people loving and serving God.

## **The Mission Statement of the United Church of Clinton**

At the United Church of Clinton we seek to:

- † spread the word of God;
  - † Love God and our neighbors passionately;
  - † Provide Christian education to people of all ages;
  - † Work together in the local community and beyond by using our spiritual gifts in faithful service to those in need;
  - † Live and bear testimony to our faith by being an example of Christian Living;
  - † Reach out to friends, families, and neighbors and invite them to join with us for reverent worship, heartfelt prayer, joyful music, and devoted celebration of the sacraments;
  - † Encourage and create a sense of love and belonging to God's family.
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**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CLINTON**

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