

# United Church of Clinton



*September 16, 2018*  
Pastor, Rev. Lee Atherton

*Worship - 10:00 am*  
Musician, Ilana Cody

## **Ministers, The People of God**

*"The kingdom of God is not so much a place we go when we die, although it is that as well. The kingdom of God is a way of life, something here and now."*

## 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)

Leader: Jesus challenges us in today's gospel:

**People: Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.**

Leader: Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them; and taking the child in his arms, he said to them:

**People: Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.**

Leader: We are still learning today what Jesus came to teach us two thousand years ago. To change the world we must change the way we love and welcome all children!

**People: May we learn to love all children as if they were our own!**

Leader: Will all the children present please lift up your voices so all of us adults can hear you? Say your name and say "Hello!"

**Children and Youth: Say your name and shout "Hello!"**

**People: We follow Christ's example, and welcome all the children of God!**

**\*HYMN of PRAISE SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE** "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

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

Unison

1. I sing a song of the saints of God,  
2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and  
3. They lived not on - ly in a - ges past; there are

pa - tient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and  
his love made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right for  
hun - dreds of thou - sands still. The world is bright with the

F G7 C G D7 G

lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And  
 Je - sus' sake the whole of their good lives long. And  
 joy - ous saints who love to do Je - sus' will. You can

C F Dm G C

one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a  
 one was a sol - dier, and one was a priest, and one was  
 meet them in school, on the street, in the store, in church, by the

Am F G7 C Am Em

shep - herd - ess on the green; they were all of them saints of  
 slain by a fierce wild beast; and there's not an - y rea - son,  
 sea, in the house next door; they are saints of God, wheth - er

F G7 C Am F Dm C G7 C

God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.  
 no, not the least, why I should - n't be one too.  
 rich or poor, and I mean to be one too.

## **PRAYER *of the* DAY**

You are in the kitchen all night, slicing, preparing, cooking, baking food for all your children so we can feast at your table. You don't clench your fist tight around your grace, but let it pour from your open hands upon those who need it most. We are blessed by such a God as you!

You sit into the wee hours, telling us your stories, until our weary souls fall fast asleep. You wrap us in the swaddling clothes of faithfulness, sending us forth to serve the broken of our world. We are called by such a Servant as you!

Tenacity and grace are the work clothes you put on each morning, so you might mentor your children. Sagacity is sprinkled throughout your words, sympathy trips off your tongue. We are taught by such a Spirit as you!

In you, God in Community, Holy in One, we have found all we need and long for, and we offer the prayer we have been taught, "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."

### **\*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**

Wisdom from on High, we confess how much we're like those first disciples of Jesus. Our cravings for more and more toss us about like leaves in the fall winds. We boast of our great wisdom, yet don't understand your ways of peace and gentleness. We don't plant ourselves in your hope and grace, so we reap harvests of disorder and conflict. Draw near, Gracious God, and forgive us. Draw us into your tender arms, and teach us peace, gentleness, the willingness to put the other first, the wisdom to serve instead of seize, so we might bring forth a harvest of righteousness, justice, and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **PASSING *the* PEACE *of* CHRIST**

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.

SCRIPTURE James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

\*HYMN

"Cry of My Heart"

*Refrain*



The image shows the musical score for the hymn "Cry of My Heart". It consists of nine staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is labeled "Refrain". The lyrics are: "It is the cry of my heart to fol - low you." "It is the cry of my heart to be close to you." "It is the cry of my heart to fol - low all of the days of my life. \_\_\_" "1. Teach me your ho - ly ways, \_\_\_ O Lord, \_\_\_ the" "2. O - pen my eyes so I \_\_\_ can see the" "so I can walk in your truth. \_\_\_ won - der - ful things that you do. \_\_\_" "Teach me your ho - ly ways, \_\_\_ O Lord, and make me O - pen my heart up more \_\_\_ and more, and make me" "whol - ly de - vot - ed to you. \_\_\_ whol - ly de - vot - ed to you. \_\_\_"

It is the cry of my heart to fol - low you.

It is the cry of my heart to be close to you.

It is the cry of my heart to fol - low  
all of the days of my life. \_\_\_

1. Teach me your ho - ly ways, \_\_\_ O Lord, \_\_\_ the  
2. O - pen my eyes so I \_\_\_ can see the

so I can walk in your truth. \_\_\_  
won - der - ful things that you do. \_\_\_

Teach me your ho - ly ways, \_\_\_ O Lord, and make me  
O - pen my heart up more \_\_\_ and more, and make me

whol - ly de - vot - ed to you. \_\_\_  
whol - ly de - vot - ed to you. \_\_\_

### 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** “Lord Listen to Your Children Praying” (twice)  
Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love. Send us power. Send us grace.

**PRESENTING OUR GIFTS to GOD**

**HYMN of DEDICATION** “Sister Let Me Be Your Servant” #490

**\*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**

**Rather than boast of all that we have and are, may we humble ourselves, as we  
offer our lives, our hearts, and our gifts, in putting others first, that they might  
discover the wonders of the kingdom of grace and hope. In Jesus’ name we pray.  
Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 9:30-37

**PASTOR’S MESSAGE**

**MOMENT OF MUSICAL REFLECTION**

**\*SENDING HYMN** “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” #589

**BLESSING and SENDING FORTH**

**BELL and POSTLUDE**

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

**New Joys and Concerns, Ongoing Prayers**

- † Larry Gilman on the death of his son, Larry. Larry died peacefully during the early morning Friday.
- † The communities of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, as well as first responders from across the state and from New Hampshire.

Bill Yacopucci

Bob Wheeler

Tyler Bauman & Family

Scott Maynard

Rachael and Kevin III

Carol and Steve Granger

Bill Cummins

Marge and Art Lamey

Gloria Nillson

Larry Gilman, Jr

Dolly Duca Cathy Darazio

Charlotte Conway

## The Week (and month) Ahead

<b>Sunday, September 16</b>	10:00am	Worship
After Worship Confirmand (and parent) Orientation Memorial Hall		
After Worship, German Christmas Planning Mtg		
<b>Friday, September 21</b>	World Peace Day	
<b>Sunday, September 23</b>	8:00 am	Bible Study
	9:00am	Ensemble
	10:00am	Worship*

### Happenings at United Church

**This Sunday's Spare Change Collection** will support a Gas Explosions/Fires Response & Recovery Fund set up by our MACUCC Conference. All of these funds will go directly to responding in Massachusetts to support our clergy and churches in their own recovery efforts and those in their communities.



Beginning next Sunday, donations will support The Wheat Community Cafe, for community members in need. Your support will help feed a family what may be their only meal of the day. Your generosity is appreciated.

Join **GCM helpers for a planning** meeting after church in Pastor Lee's office. Our German Christmas Market is one of the highlights of the season! It'll be here before you know it.

**\*Peace Sunday** – September 23rd, weather permitting, we will worship outdoors. Bring your comfy chair, or a blanket, maybe a snack or two. Worship will be informal and be led by members of the congregation. Join in celebrating and praying for peace.

**Got your nametag? Kids – do you have yours?** It's very important for all of us to wear name tags – not only to worship, but to coffee hour too. Help new-comers feel welcome by letting them know who you are. If you need one, let Lee know.

**United Church of Clinton – The Light on the Hill!** Celebrate with the members and friends of our German heritage, neighborhood church as we continue to “Grow for Others”. **Mark Your Calendars!! 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 "Churches Alive," want a Dunkins gift card? Let Pastor Lee know you saw this note. a process of discovery, discipline, and community involvement through which United Church will continue to become a vital and important part of the Clinton community.

**Transformation Sunday** (September 30<sup>th</sup>) will include some showering flour. Come to worship to see what Pastor Lee has up her sleeve *this time!* Pray for good weather as our confirmands and their mentors (or mentor fill-ins) go on a Wilderness Walk.

**Got a suggestion?** A worship theme idea? Small group ministry? On-line workshop topic? A retreat? You name it – if you put your ideas and suggestions in the suggestion box on the table by the handicap bathroom we'll do our best to make it happen.

### [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.](#) **~~We celebrate the Confirmation of 4 young men this year. Please congratulate Drew Dobeck, Zachary Newton, Ryan George~~**

#### THE UNITED CHURCH OF CLINTON

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