

United Church of Clinton



September 23, 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."

People: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and security within your towers.”

Leader: For the sake of friend and stranger we say:

People: **Peace be within you, O Jerusalem!**

Peace be within you, O New York, O Washington, O Merrimack Valley!

Leader: Peace be within you, O Carolinas!

Peace be within this community!

People: **For the sake of the house of the Holy One, our God, we will seek your good.**

All: **Let us worship the living God, tender and just!**

***HYMN of PRAISE SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE** “For the Healing of the Nations” #668
You are invited to bring your gifts to support our outreach and mission opportunities.

PRAYER of the DAY

Open our ears, Teacher of souls, so that we might hear the cries of the hungry and feed them, the loneliness of the unloved and embrace them, the songs of little children and lead them.

Give us the words we need, Teacher of justice, so that we might challenge the powerful and callous, so that we work to bring together families separated by fear, so that we might speak out when everyone else is silent.

Strengthen our hearts, Teacher of hope, so that we might sustain the weary, not just with words, but with our friendship; so that we might not hide but face down cruelty with kindness and mercy.

Morning by morning, day by day, continue to teach us your ways, God in Community, Holy in One, as we pray, “Our father which 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. For thine is the Kingdom, 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.

(Please be seated)

PRAYERS of CONFESSION and RESTORATION "A New Way" (from Main Street Congregational Church)

Leader: Remember, O God, the people of this world, divided into many nations,
religions and tongues. Kelly Turcotte

People: Deliver us from every evil
that stands in the way of your saving purpose
and fulfill the promise of peace on earth
among those with whom you are well pleased.
Help us find a new way, God,
to turn from the curse of war
and the human sin that causes war;
a way from pride that turns its back on you;
from unbelief that will not bow to you,
away from self-righteousness that will not compromise,
from selfishness that glories in the oppression of others,
from the lust for property or power that drives humanity to kill,
from trusting in the weapons of war
and mistrusting the councils of peace,
from hearing, believing and speaking lies
about other nations and religions,
from ground-less suspicions and fears
that stand in the way of reconciliation,
from words and deeds that encourage discord, prejudice and hatred;
from everything that prevents the human family
from fulfilling your promise of peace.

And now, O God, hear our private confessions we lift up to you now in
silence....

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 Psalm 19 p.731

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN**

"This Is My Song"

Alana Limber and Charlotte Gill

#722

RINGING of the BOWL / TIME of CENTERING

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

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Bob Lidstone

Prayer for Peace

~ written by Jack Knox, pastor of Salem (Oregon) Mennonite Church Gracious

Lord, we dream of a world free of poverty and oppression, and we yearn for a world free of vengeance and violence. And we pray for your peace.

When our hearts ache for the victims of war and oppression, help us to remember that you healed people simply by touching them..., and give us faith in our ability to comfort and heal bodies and minds and spirits that have been broken by violence.

When the injustice of this world seems too much for us to handle, help us to remember that you fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish..., and give us hope that what we have to offer will turn out to be enough, too.

When fear of the power and opinions of others tempts us not to speak up for the least among us, help us to remember that you dared to turn over the tables of

money changers..., and give us the courage to risk following you without counting the cost.

When we feel ourselves fill with anger at those who are violent and oppressive, help us remember that you prayed for those who killed you..., and give us compassion for our enemies, too.

When we tell ourselves that we have given all we can to bring peace to this world, help us to remember your sacrifice... , and give us the miracle of losing a little more of ourselves in serving you and our neighbors.

Walk with us, Lord, as we answer your call to be peacemakers. Increase our compassion, our generosity and our hospitality for the least of your children. Give us the courage, the patience, the serenity, the self-honesty and the gentleness of spirit that are needed in a world filled with turmoil and terror. Amen.

***CALL to WORSHIP** Inspired by Psalm 122 (*please stand as you are able*)

Leader: We were glad when they said, "Let us go to the house of God!"

People: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Holy City!

Leader: We pray for the peace of all God's beloved cities:

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, and GLIMPSES of GOD Dawn Sivert

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.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE Pam Dobeck

One: Holy One, you have often called out to us, showing us your way of Peace. Thank you for the prophets, teachers and leaders who have and who continue to lead our way. Thank you for this church community and for the United Church of Christ as we continue to seek you and to struggle for peace and justice. You have called to us and now, trusting in your love for us, we call back to you now with our prayers.

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: For those hidden places in need of holistic and radical justice,

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: For your people who are living as refugees, far from their homelands and facing many insecurities,

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: For the immigrants in our nation who wonder if they are really welcome, who fear on a daily basis,

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: For children who are in the immigration detention system and for families who have been separated as a result of this system,

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: For those in our churches and in our communities in need of help,

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

One: And for all the prayers that burden our hearts and yours,

All: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayers.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" #305

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

INVITATION Jackie Wuth

God's blessings rain down upon us like manna from heaven. Sometimes we recognize them as blessings, and sometimes we don't. But God's presence is with us in either case. Today we pause on this journey to remember the many times God has been with us along the way and has provided for our needs. Then, through the ministry of this church, we join in the work of God in providing for the needs of the world. Let us gather our gifts together and

offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

For the Holden Village Community, Clatsop, Washington, Christmas 1985

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Words based on a Navaho Indian Prayer

David Haas

HYMN of DEDICATION

"We Shall Overcome"

#630

*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

Gracious God and source of all good gifts, thank you for the resources in our lives, in our community and in our nation. Thank you for all that we share today to make our lives, our community and our nation more welcoming. Bless us in our continued ministries that seek your peace and justice. Amen.

SCRIPTURE James 3:1-12 (adapted)

Wendy Preston and Kevin

Wuth

PRAYER

MESSAGE of the DAY

INTRODUCTION:
Prayerfully, (♩ = ca. 96)

Capo 3: (D) F (A/D) C/F (G/D) Bb/F (D) F

The musical score is written for guitar with a capo on the 3rd fret. It consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. Chords are indicated above the staff, and lyrics are written below. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the final two lines. The lyrics are: 1. Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us, peace be - fore us, love be - hind us, love be - fore us, light be - hind us, light be - fore us, Christ be - hind us, Christ. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us, peace

1. un - der our feet. Peace with - in us, peace
2. un - der our feet. Love with - in us, love
3. un - der our feet. Light with - in us, light
4. un - der our feet. Christ with - in us, Christ
5. lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia
6. un - der our feet. Peace with - in us, peace



1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

o - ver us, let all a - round us be peace.
 o - ver us, let all a - round us be love.
 o - ver us, let all a - round us be light.
 o - ver us, let all a - round us be Christ.
 lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.
 o - ver us, let all a - round us be

(G/D) Bb/F (D) F

(A/D) C/F (G/D) Bb/F (D) F

6. (D) F (G/D) Bb/F (D) F

6. peace. Let all a - round us be peace.

(G/D) Bb/F (D) F

Let all a - round us be peace.

(A/D) C/F (G/D) Bb/F (D) F *(keep repeating and fade)*

Other possibilities for verses: Joy before us. . . .
 Truth before us. . . .
 Hope before us. . . .

Verse 3 You may say I'm a dreamer
 But I'm not the only one
 I hope some day you'll join us
 And the world will be as one

Imagine all the people sharing
 all the world, you

Verse 4 Imagine no possessions
 I wonder if you can
 No need for greed or hunger

Verse 5 You may say I'm a dreamer
 But I'm not the only one
 I hope some day you'll join us
 And the world will be as one

BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

Gloria Parkinson

God's love surround you, God's Spirit guide you,
God's whisper cheer you, God's peace calm you,
God's shield protect you, God's wisdom arm you,
wherever God may lead you.

Go now from this place to love and serve our God! Amen!

BELL *and* POSTLUDE

Our worship has ended ~ Let our service begin!

- Today's acolytes and ushers are **Regan Bodak and Sydney Furman**.
- Thank you to Gloria for her help in creating this special service in recognition of World Peace Sunday.
- Today's flowers are given in memory of Larry Gilman, Jr. whose life we remembered yesterday morning at a beautiful "Celebration of Life".

New Joys and Concerns, Ongoing Prayers

✠ Bruce, Deb Facendola's son; Michelle Kosar,;and all affected by Hurricane Florence.

Bill Yacopucci

Rachael and Kevin III

Gloria Nillson

Bob Wheeler

Carol and Steve Granger

Larry Gilman, Sr

Tyler Bauman & Family

Bill Cummins

Dolly Duca Cathy Darazio

Scott Maynard

Marge and Art Lamey

Charlotte Conway

The Week (and month) Ahead

Sunday, September 23

10:00am

Lay Led Worship Outdoors

Sunday, September 30

8:00 am

Bible Study

9:00am

Ensemble and Confirmation

10:00am

Worship* Transformation Sunday

Happenings at United Church

Today we celebrate Just Peace Sunday. Just Peace is not a destination, but a path requiring awareness and constant vigilance to resolve existing and developing conflict in ourselves, our families, our communities, our institutions, and our world. This path requires non-violence when possible and even when impossible to engage in love and restraint. Just Peace envisions a renewed, vibrant, diverse, and sustainable world free of violence. Just Peace is grounded in God's activity in creation; God's covenant patience and provision in the wilderness; in the reconciling activity of Jesus Christ; in the presence of the Holy Spirit; and in the community of reconciliation. Shalom is the vision that pulls all creation toward a time when weapons are made into ploughs and all creatures lie down together without fear; where all have their own vine, fig tree, and dwell secure from want. As Christians, we offer this conviction to the world: **Peace is possible!**

Worship will be informal and be led by members of the congregation. Join in celebrating and praying for peace and justice – in our own community and throughout the world!

Supporting Human Justice Our donations today will support **The victims of Hurricane Florence.**

Pastor Lee is away this weekend. There will be no Pastor's Coffee Hours tomorrow.

Transformation Sunday (September 30th) 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.

Won't You Be My Neighbor? Let's join First Church in Sterling at a showing of this fantastic documentary about Mr. Rogers. Sunday, September 30th from 2-5pm at The Strand.

Imagine going to a small community event where everyone knows everyone – except you! If you had never been to our church before, and you're a newcomer to the town of Clinton, what would help make this first visit more comfortable for you? One way we could help - Let Lee know if you read this misplaced sentence and you can win a DD gift card – is to ALWAYS wear our 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.

Where do you sit during Coffee Hour? It is SO easy for all of us to find our comfy spot and let that become our usual place to sit. We know our table-mates and our connection with each other deepens over the weeks and months we sit together. Pastor Lee challenges all of us to try something new. Even if you just stand and visit another table to say hello. **Especially!** when we have guests at church, please invite them to join you at your table, or go sit with them if they're alone.

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," 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.

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 German Christmas Market will be here before you know it! This amazing event is a huge fundraiser and community awareness for our church and needs lots of helping hands to be successful. If you can help in any way – before or during; half an hour or lots of hours; at home or at church – be in touch with Dawn Sivert or leave a message at the office.

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

109 Haskell Avenue Clinton, Massachusetts 01510

Website: clintonunitedchurch.org E-Mail: cu@clintonunitedchurch.org

Pastor's E-Mail: Lee@CoachRev.com Church Office: 978-365-9232