



Union Presbyterian Church

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

October 24, 2021 | 10 AM

Reformed worship is centered around the Word, both the Word of scripture and Christ as the Word Incarnate. In worship we gather around the Word, engage with the Word, and respond to the Word.

Bold text is read or sung by the congregation.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

This morning's Call to Worship is written by Rev. Teri Peterson, a PC-USA pastor serving in Gourrock, Scotland

This hymn's text reminds us of the many surprising ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth.

Confession is our opportunity to be honest with God, so that our relationship may be restored and our hearts reconciled.

Gather

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Show us your ways, O Lord! Lead us in your truth, and teach us.

Open our eyes, minds, and hearts to know your will and to follow it.

Reveal your vision for us,

and keep us focused and faithful to what you would have us do.

Bring us together to worship and work for your purpose, and move us forward into your future. Amen.

*Hymn 410 (v.1,2)

God is Calling Through the Whisper

W ZLOBIE LEZY

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,

through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.

Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:

God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers, through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.

Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:

God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

Prayer of Praise

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Triune God, we confess that often what we desire is not your will. We fear failure and cling to unquestioned habits. We are truly sorry for what we have done that has broken your heart and for what we have not done that could glorify you. Show us the path of your prophetic way. Open our spirits to new ventures. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us and renew us in the name of life abundant, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Silent prayers of confession)

Responsive Assurance of Forgiveness

Siblings, hear the good news. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have all been forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient practices of worship. Having received Christ's peace, we pass it on.

Sharing Christ's Peace

Because God has given us the peace of forgiveness, let us also be at peace with one another. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Engage

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading (*The Message* translation)

Galatians 1:6-9; 5:1,22-25

I can't believe your fickleness - how easily you have turned traitor to him who called you by the grace of Christ by embracing a variant message! ⁷ It is not a minor variation, you know; it is completely other, an alien message, a no-message, a lie about God. Those who are provoking this agitation among you are turning the Message of Christ on its head. ⁸ Let me be blunt: If one of us - even if an angel from heaven! - were to preach something other than what we preached originally, let him be cursed. ⁹ I said it once; I'll say it again: If anyone, regardless of reputation or credentials, preaches something other than what you received originally, let him be cursed.

Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.... But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard - things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, ²³ not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. ²⁴ Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good - crucified. ²⁵ Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.

Hear what God's Spirit is saying to us. This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Message

How Will I Know?

Rev. Lisa Stenner

*Hymn 707 (v.1,4)

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

HALL

**Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.**

**Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all;
we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.**

This hymn began with the tune, which the composer hummed to the author with a request for a text that would challenge the hearts and minds of believers.



Scan QR code to give electronically from your phone.

Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is a PC-USA pastor that writes hymn texts to familiar tunes. She is serving as the parish associate pastor at the First Presbyterian Union Church in Owego, New York.

Our 2021 benediction is adapted from one written by Michelle Thomas-Bush for d365.org.

Our worship does not end with the postlude, but continues out into the world, where we are sent to love and care for God's people

Respond

Offering of Our Time, Talent and Treasure

Financial offerings support the Body of Christ through the life and mission of Union Presbyterian Church. You may give online www.unionpresby.org automated giving through your bank, and through snail mail.

*Doxology

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Hymn

For Freedom Christ has Set Us Free

ELLACOMBE

Now, Spirit-filled, may we be led from ways that would destroy.

May we your people turn instead to lives of love and joy.

May we find peace that makes us whole and patience everywhere.

God, give us kindness, self-control, and hearts and hands that share.

*Charge and Benediction

Go out from this time and persevere in the faith. Love with intention.

Be Christ's church. Practice radical hospitality. Celebrate others.

May the grace of God fill your days so that you cannot help but respond to all of life with audacious joy!

*Postlude

Worship Leaders

Cheryl Martinez, Accompanist

Miranda Kavanaugh, Liturgist

Birthdays

October 25 Brian Pears

October 26 JoAnna Houchins

October 30 Mary Schmalzl

Anniversaries

October 27 Dave & Peggy Schadler

Prayers

Holly Hillman, Beverly Johnson, Bob Janes,

Jacque Sherwood, Jo Ann Scott, Jim Detwiler



Blanket Bonanza! After worship TODAY and Wed, October 27th @ 7pm We're making fleece blankets to be given to children entering the foster care system in our area. If you can use scissors and/or tie a knot, you can be an expert blanket maker. Please bring sharp scissors if you have a pair.

Sign up in the narthex or on the website so that we know how many stations to prepare.

Men's Night Out 6pm Thursday, October 28th

All men are invited to share food and fellowship when we gather in the Family Room for spaghetti and wine. In keeping with church guidelines, we will wear masks except when eating or drinking.

?s: Contact Barry Akins (anvil.feather@hotmail.com) or John Seibert (jseibert8@twc.com).



2021 Chili Cook Off Sunday, November 7th after worship

Calling all cooks - enter your favorite pot of chili in the UPC Chili Cookoff! Diners vote on their favorite chili, and we crown a winner! The winner will receive a fabulous trophy and bragging rights for a whole year.

Votes may be purchased for \$1 each. Buy 5, get one free. \$5 = 6 votes

Kroger gift cards may also be traded in for votes.

(\$15 gift card = 18 votes)

You may vote an unlimited number of times!

All proceeds benefit our neighbors in need through our Community Assistance Fund. This fund and gift cards are used to provide assistance to people who come to the church in need of help. Sign up in the narthex or on the website. Reservations are not required; however, they help us prepare for a safe and fully supplied event.

SESSION

Moderator: Reverend Lisa Stenner

Class of 2021

Kurt Lintelman 919-830-1751
Paul Seidman 508-951-6848

Class of 2022

Kim Fry 678-641-4060
John Seibert 760-4712

Class of 2023

Robert Brown 669-6008
Jessica Wood – 462-8995

DEACONS

Class of 2021

Dustie Kemp
Logan Kemp
Cathy Kowalski

Class of 2022

Beverly Johnson
Holly VonLehman

Class of 2023

Amanda Herdman
Peggy Schadler
Bob Sherwood