Divisions in the church always breed atheism in the world. - Thomas Manton, chaplain to Oliver Cromwell



## WELCOME

PRELUDE

Allegretto

Purcell/Drummond

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation.

### The old has gone; the new has come!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

### We receive God's ministry of reconciliation and commit to learning, growing in, and sharing the unifying ways of Christ.

As God counts not our sins against us, neither do we count others' sins against them. We are Christ's ambassadors as Jesus continues to make all things new.

HYMN The Church's One Foundation no. 545

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of unity and peace, you know that we talk much about peace, but at the same time make so much trouble for ourselves and for each other. We quarrel in church, at home, at work, and even between nations and religions. We let our loyalties to things and ideas and even our nation surpass our loyalty to Jesus Christ. We think worldly wisdom sometimes looks better than the truth shown to us by your incredible Word. Forgive us. Embrace us with the Spirit's power of reconciliation. Fill us with your gracious power. May we become even more committed to living Christ-like lives today and every day. In the name of our risen Lord, Friend, and Savior. Amen.

## SILENT CONFESSION

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the power and name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In our forgiveness, may we blossom fully with unity and purpose, so that the world will know us by our love. Amen.

### SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that awaits to enslave us all and whose love, defeating death, holds a promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust; and in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the Earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful, wherever found. Amen.

-lona Abbey Worship Book

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE Acts 15:1-11(CEB)

Some people came down from Judea teaching the family of believers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom we've received from Moses, you can't be saved." Paul and Barnabas took sides against these Judeans and argued strongly against their position. The church at Antioch appointed Paul, Barnabas, and several others from Antioch to go up to Jerusalem to set this question before the apostles and the elders. The church sent this delegation on their way. They traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, telling stories about the conversion of the Gentiles to everyone. Their reports thrilled the brothers and sisters. When they arrived in Jerusalem, the church, the apostles, and the elders all welcomed them. They gave a full report of what God had accomplished through their activity. Some believers from among the Pharisees stood up and claimed, "The Gentiles must be circumcised. They must be required to keep the Law from Moses." The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter. After much debate. Peter stood and addressed them, "Fellow believers, you know that, early on, God chose me from among you as the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and come to believe. God, who knows people's deepest thoughts and desires, confirmed this by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, but purified their deepest thoughts and desires through faith. Why then are you now challenging God by placing a burden on the shoulders of these disciples that neither we nor our ancestors could bear? On the contrary, we believe that we and they are saved in the same way, by the grace of the Lord Jesus."

## TESTIMONY

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

Nancy Holland

Hal H. Hopson

Chancel Choir Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

The Gift of Love

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, spirit, come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole, Let inward love guide every deed, by this we worship and are freed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Acts 15:12-21 (CEB)

The entire assembly fell quiet as they listened to Barnabas and Paul describe all the signs and wonders God did among the Gentiles through their activity. When Barnabas and Paul also fell silent, James responded, "Fellow believers, listen to me. Simon reported how, in his kindness, God came to the Gentiles in the first place, to raise up from them a people of God. The prophets' words agree with this; as it is written, After this I will return, and I will rebuild David's fallen tent; I will rebuild what has been torn down. I will restore it so that the rest of humanity will seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who belong to me. The Lord says this, the one who does these things known from earliest times. "Therefore, I conclude that we shouldn't create problems for Gentiles who turn to God. Instead, we should write a letter, telling them to avoid the pollution associated with idols, sexual immorality, eating meat from strangled animals, and consuming blood. After all, Moses has been proclaimed in every city for a long time, and is read aloud every Sabbath in every synagogue."

HYMN We Are God's People TFWS no. 2220

# MESSAGE Rising from Quarreling

AN ANCIENT PRAYER OF INTERCESSION We beseech you, O Lord, to grant us your help and protection. Deliver the afflicted, pity the lowly, raise the fallen, reveal yourself to the needy, heal the sick, and bring home your wandering people. (silent prayer)

Feed the hungry, ransom the captive,

support the weak, comfort the faint-hearted. (silent prayer)

Let all the nations of the earth know that you alone are God, that Jesus Christ is your child and that we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.

(silent prayer)

Do not keep count of the sins of your servants, but purify us through the bath of your truth and direct our steps. Help us to walk in holiness of heart, and to do what is good and pleasing in your eyes and in

the eyes of our rulers.

(silent prayer)

Master,

Let your face shine on us to grant us every good in peace, protect us by your powerful hand, deliver us from every evil by the might of your arm.

Grant us and all who dwell on this earth peace and harmony, O Lord. **Amen.** - Clement of Rome

## THE LORD'S 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## OFFERING

You may give your offering by text-Text UMCWC \$50 to 73256, by using the QR code on your screen, at <u>umcwc.org</u>, through the mail, by automated giving through Realm, or by dropping it off at our office.

OFFERING VIDEO GC2020 Daily Wrap-up: April 23, 2024

no. 547, vs. 4

OFFERING RESPONSE May thy great prayer be answered that we may all be one, close bound, by love united in thee, God's blessed Son; to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright, that souls which grope in darkness may find the one true light.

## OFFERING PRAYER

We offer our gifts in gratitude for all you have given us, loving God.

We are amazed at your wondrous love, which includes instead of excludes and tempers justice with mercy.

How grateful we are for your unconditional acceptance. With our gifts we give our lives, that we might go and do likewise in the name of Jesus, the Christ. **Amen.** 

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN In Unity We Lift Our Song TFWS no. 2221

BENEDICTION

My friends, though we have gathered as many, we are one in Christ. You have received the gift of God's love. Share it with others.

We go from this place as the Body of Christ equipped to provide light in the dark corners of the world and love where it is not.

Go in the strength of Christ to build a more peaceful world. **Amen.** 

POSTLUDE For the Beauty of the Earth

Kocher/Schram

# Bold text indicates congregational response.

# WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Message: Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller Reader: Matt Fenn Organist: Steve Campitelli Chancel Choir Director: Tom Sabatino Children's Message: Kelly Lynn Live Stream Team: Tim Case, Holly Grimm, Todd Grimm, Jake Joslin, Heidi Krug, Brad Rush, Zeke Shappell Smith, Cory Smith (leader)

# Conflict Resolution – Examples in the Bible

1- Isaac and Ishmaelites – Genesis 26:15-22 Issue- wells of water Resolution – leave the conflict Move and dig more wells Enemies claimed the wells that Isaac had dug – Isaac more powerful than enemies – Isaac moved instead of fighting

2-Joseph and his brothers – Genesis 37-50 Issue – abuse – physical and emotional Resolution – forgiveness after years and seeing God in life

Process – proving that the brothers had changed, grieving the losses Multiple proofs required, brothers held

accountable – restoration

**3-Saul and David** – I Samuel 19-31 Issue – abuse, attempt to kill

Resolution – flee, hide, not retaliate Process- David recognized that God had

chosen Saul

God chose David to replace Saul – David waited for God's time

David – did not shun Saul's family, was kind and open to relationship

**4-Jacob and Esau** – Genesis 25,27,28,32,33 Issue – deception

Resolution – both said, "I have enough" Process – discussion, meeting, gave gifts to each other

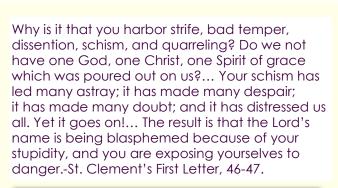
Jacob – wrestled with God before resolving tensions with Esau

5-Jacob and Laban – Genesis 24, 29-31 Issue- deception/mutual distrust

Resolution- part ways

Process- Jacob and Laban agree to parting Jacob & Laban – separation of operations, geographical distance

**6- Jonathan and David** – I Samuel 18-23 Issue – who is heir to the throne Resolution – Jonathan defend and defer to David Process – Friendship between Jonathan and David





# How to Talk Through a Conflict

### For the Speaker

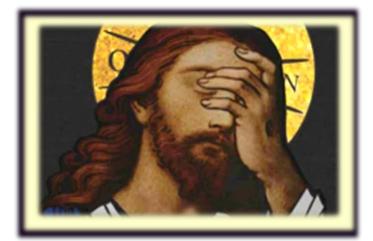
-The person who identifies the problem should bring it up first. They should be prepared with a workable solution to the problem. -Be brief.

- -Stick to one subject at a time.
- -Begin most statements with "I."
- -Share feelings as well as thoughts.
- -Do not be critical/judgmental.

## For the Listener

-Do not emotionally react. Thoughtfully respond. -Be inquisitive; search for underlying meanings. -Do not counter, criticize, or attack. -Acknowledge by saying, "I understand..." -Receive the solution and improve upon it. Seek compromise. -Congratulate each other for coming to a

-Congratulate each other for coming to a solution. Put a timeline in place for behavior change.



## As the Church Quarrels, Jesus Prays for Unity

"I'm not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word. I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. I've given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. I'm in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me. John 17:20-23 CEB