

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

Worship 9:30am

Sunday School 10:50am

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE Janelle Arnett Campbell, organist
WELCOME AND PRAYER Christian Buller, worship leader
*HYMN #53 *God of the earth, the sky, the sea*

WE LISTEN AND LEARN

CHILDREN'S TIME Ashton Wells
HYMN #27 SJ *God of the Bible*
SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 10:1-11
SERMON *The Idolatry of Whiteness*

I. WE BELIEVE each human being is made in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). That image and likeness confers a divinely decreed dignity, worth, and God-given equality to all of us as children of the one God who is the Creator of all things. Racial bigotry is a brutal denial of the image of God (the imago dei) in some of the children of God. Our participation in the global community of Christ absolutely prevents any toleration of racial bigotry. Racial justice and healing are biblical and theological issues for us, and are central to the mission of the body of Christ in the world. We give thanks for the prophetic role of the historic black churches in America when they have called for a more faithful gospel.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT the resurgence of white nationalism and racism in our nation on many fronts, including the highest levels of political leadership. We, as followers of Jesus, must clearly reject the use of racial bigotry for political gain that we have seen. In the face of such bigotry, silence is complicity. In particular, we reject white supremacy and commit ourselves to help dismantle the systems and structures that perpetuate white preference and advantage. Further, any doctrines or political strategies that use racist resentments, fears, or language must be named as public sin—one that goes back to the foundation of our nation and lingers on. Racial bigotry must be antithetical for those belonging to the body of Christ, because it denies the truth of the gospel we profess.**

HYMN #483

O God, who gives us life

WE RESPOND AND SHARE

INTRODUCTION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

SHARING JOY

We welcome the introduction of guests and visitors during this time. One way we get to know one another is by signing the friendship registers. Once the register reaches the center aisle, please pass it back to the outer aisle.

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER

Slips of paper are available in the pew racks for those who wish to offer joys and concerns silently and anonymously. These papers, if put in the offering plate, will be placed in the prayer bowl table at the front of the sanctuary.

OFFERING

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you did not have time to submit a written announcement, or if something new needs highlighting, please hand your written announcement to the worship leader or pastor before the worship service.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD WITH LOVE

***SENDING FORTH PRAYER, HYMN AND POSTLUDE**

Please remain standing for the closing hymn and postlude.

***HYMN (see next page)**

The Church has here commissioned us

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

*Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in the blue *Hymnal: A Worship Book*.*

*Songs designated "SJ" are in the green *Sing the Journey* hymnal.*

As we sing, please use language that makes worship most meaningful, enriching and inclusive.

******These words are lifted from a longer letter called "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis." (ReclaimingJesus.org) The full, three-page letter was written in Spring of 2018 and signed by over 50 ecumenical faith leaders. Today and in future Sundays, we will consider various sections of this letter as part of our own congregational goal of "fostering a relevant peace church tradition in the 21st century informed by the study of scripture and current societal challenges such as racism, gun violence, immigration and socioeconomic biases and disparities."

1. The Church has here com - mis - sioned us; em -
 2. The Spir - it sends us com - mon folk, (the
 3. We go to spread the Word we've heard, to
 4. God with and in us, guide our steps where

pow - ered we are sent. Im - pelled by love of
 kind God likes to choose), to be a leav - en
 tell it far and near, by deeds of jus - tice
 you would have us go. May we show love to

Christ we go; to serve is our in - tent.
 in the world, to be and bring Good News.
 to pro - claim a gos - pel all can hear.
 those we meet, that life may thrive and grow.

Text: Delores Dufner, b.1939; © 2018, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music: McKEE; African American; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949



Consider
Confront
Change

Here is a place for worship reflections. Consider what you've heard or sensed today. What needs confronting? What change do you yearn for?

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