

Christ's Reformed Church – United Church of Christ
~ growing people of faith who live in Jesus, love one another and bear abundant fruit ~



CONSECRATION SUNDAY

JANUARY 21, 2018

9:30 AM



PRAYER OF PREPARATION

From deep within us we know of a loving presence. All around us we see glory, beauty, life and light. We have no words for what we experience so we cry out, “God!” In this moment of worship may that loving presence grow deeper, may our awareness of the diving presence around us grow more intense. May we, gathered in this place, learn to pay more attention to God, who loves us at all times and in all places. God, of love and life, in this moment of prayer be

more and more in us that we might live more and more in you. Amen.

~ GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE ~

WELCOME AND SHARING

MUSICAL PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to respond to the call of God’s love.

Thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news with us.

May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others.

Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied.

Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded.

May our gathering beckon and welcome those near and far to know the love of this divine presence.

* HYMN OF PRAISE

We Gather Together

~ See Insert

OPENING PRAYER

We give thanks to you, God our Father, for mercy that reaches out, for patience that waits our returning, for your love that is ever ready to welcome sinners.

We praise you that in Jesus Christ you came to us with forgiveness, and that, by your Holy Spirit, you move us to repent and receive your love.

Though we are sinners, you are faithful and worthy of all praise.

We praise you, great God, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Red 272, vs. 1 only

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community. But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here. We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience. Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others; some like us, some not.

We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies for fear they just might become friends. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace. God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit. Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love.

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF RESPONSE

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

~ See Insert

~ LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD ~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, our God, we bless and thank you for the gift of your Word. Grant your servant both the humility and the boldness necessary to preach it. Prepare our hearts and lives to be strengthened and changed by it. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

New Testament

2 Timothy 4:1-5

¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears

away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN MESSAGE

Branda Yeargan

* HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Black 565

SERMON

Rev. Kyle Powderly

PASTORAL PRAYER, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

~ RESPONDING AS GOD'S PEOPLE ~

BELL ANTHEM

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

GIVING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Gestures of gratitude are a demonstration that a blessing or benefit has been received. We heard a call, dropped our nets and came to this place to find new life. The gifts we give today are but tokens of the blessings of the new life we live in Christ. Bring your gifts with joy for they remind us of just how blessed we are to know this love that flows so generously from the spirit of God.

(Please sign and then pass the "Friendship Pad" down the row so we may have an attendance record.)

OFFERTORY

Ashley Kessler on Trumpet

* RESPONSE

The Doxology

~ See Insert

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May these gifts, given to these ministries of grace, be a blessing to friends and strangers, those like us and those not, those deserving and those not, for in this way the love of God reaches all of God's beloved. **Amen.**

CONSECRATION LITANY AND A TIME OF PRAYER

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (*Ps. 24:1*).

We possess nothing, not even ourselves. We are but stewards for our Creator, and all that we have is a gift from God.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of

heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it” (*Mal. 3:10*).

Lord, forgive us for our selfishness. We think that our security lies in our own hands, but that is only an illusion. Help us to seek you and your kingdom.

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked” (*Luke 12:48*).

Gracious God, enable us to be good stewards of all your blessings. Help us to use our time, talents, and resources wisely and to your glory.

Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions” (*Luke 12:15*).

Lord, forgive us for thinking that this life is about getting more stuff than our neighbors have. Our homes, cars, appliances, and toys do not make life worth living—only you do.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (*2 Cor. 9:6-7*).

Lord, grant us joy in giving. Light a passion in our hearts for building up your body and providing for the work of your kingdom.

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine (*Prov. 3:9-10*).

Money is not evil unless it leads us away from you, Lord. May we honor you with our wealth and use it for good.

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies (*1 Cor. 6:19-20*).

Our lives are not our own. We cannot save ourselves. We need you to rescue us from death. We have been bought with your precious blood; may we live not for ourselves but for you, Jesus.

The Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (*Acts 20:35*).

Lord, change our orientation from being getters to being givers, so that we might know the joy of your blessed life.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life (*1 Tim. 6:17-19*).

Lord Jesus, we celebrate the new life we have in you. It is a life filled with love and grace! We dedicate these pledges to the building of your kingdom and ask that you would bless them to the work of your church. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

INDIVIDUAL ACTS OF COMMITMENT

At this time, and as you are able, you may make your way up to the original altar to consecrate yourselves and any 2018 commitments that you would like to offer to God. This is a time of personal commitment and surrender: all may come, no one must come.

HYMNS OF COMMITMENT

Breathe on Me, Breath of God Black 292

I Would Be True Black 492

Called as Partners in Christ's Service Black 495

~ GOING IN GOD'S NAME ~

* SENDING & BLESSING

Now may the One who is faithful to all be with us all as we depart this blessed place.
May we be a blessing to every place we go, until we gather again. **Amen!**

* CLOSING SONG

Halleluja

Black 236

POSTLUDE