

DATE May 16, 2021 THEME Growing Faith: Unity

God's People Gather

Prelude Pondering

I offer you peace. I offer you love. I offer you friendship. I see your beauty. I hear your need. I feel your feelings. My wisdom flows from the Highest Source. I salute that Source in you. Let us work together for unity and love.

— Mahatma Gandhi

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Christ is the head, we are the body.

People: Christ the foundation, we the building.

Leader: Jesus is the vine, we the branches.

People: He is the shepherd, we the sheep.

Leader: Christ is the way, we walk in it.

People: We are the body; we are the church; we are one in Christ.

ALL: Let us worship God!

Opening Song

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation

is Jesus Christ her Lord;

She is His new creation

by water and the word;

From heaven He came and sought her

To be His holy bride;

With His own blood He bought her,

and for her life He died.

Yet she on earth has union
with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won;

Oh happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
May live eternally.

Call to Confession

All of us were made in the image of God, but too often, we act as if God's image can only be seen in those whom we already love. Too often, we do not live in ways that disciples should live. We fail to do what we should do, and we do things we should not. But we ARE made in God's image, and we can trust that the same God who gives us free will has also already given us grace! That's why we can offer together our prayer of confession, with confidence and trust. Will you pray with me?

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we thank you for this world you have created, rich in diversity and varied in every way. We thank you for our siblings in Christ, with whom we walk this pilgrim journey. Yet we confess that we fail to love as you love. We push aside or ridicule those with whom we disagree. We disregard those we believe are the least in your creation. Forgive us, God, for the times when we have created division; for the times when we have failed to live in unity; for the times when we have offended you by refusing to love one another. Form in us a new vision for community, in which there is neither East nor West, nor male nor female, but one great connected fellowship of believers who live in the light of your grace. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, hear the good news. God is just and forgiving. God receives us as we are, lifts us up and calls us again to be people upholding justice, unity, and peace.

Receive God's pardon and know that you are loved, and you are forgiven!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Response

Peace Song

Peace I leave with you my friends

Shalom my peace in all you do

Peace I leave with you my friends

I give to you so you can give to others too.

God's Word is Proclaimed

Children's Time

Scripture Reading

Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

Aaron Shoppa

Sermon

Responding to God's Word

Offering

If you are able, please continue to send in your offering and pledge. If you are enrolled in electronic funds transfer, there is no need to do anything different. If you would like to give online using Paypal, click this link: bit.ly/FPCsterling

Prayer of Dedication

Oh God of all people, take these our gifts, and take us, imperfect as we are. Take us from where we are, to where you want us to be; fire us with passion for justice and peace between all people; fill us with that faith, hope and love which embody the Gospel; and through the power of the Holy Spirit make us one. Use us and use these gifts we bring, so that the world may believe, so that your church may more effectively

be your body. We dedicate these offerings to you, and we commit ourselves to love you, serve you, and follow you as pilgrims not strangers. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God's People are Sent

Closing Song

O Who Will Build the Church Now

O, who will build the church now?

We'll build it together.

(repeat)

Iyo yo yo yo

Iyo yo yo yo

Iyo yo yo yo

Iyo yo yo yo iyo!

O, who will build the church now?

The children and the grown-ups.

(repeat)

Iyo yo yo yo

Iyo yo yo yo

Iyo yo yo yo

Iyo yo yo yo iyo!

Benediction

Leader:....and let all God's people say...

People: Alleluia! Amen!