



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 27, 2014

*Means those who are able please stand.

Songs: SP & P - Sing, Prayer & Praise; NCH - New Century Hymnal

Bold face indicates where the congregation is invited to join in saying the words.

Ring the Bell

Greeting and Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Centering Music "Surely God Is In This Place" (chant)

***Call to Worship**

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
**A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to
forgive.**

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of
grace;

**Here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are welcome in this
place.**

***Gathering Song**

“All Are Welcome” vv. 1-4

***Silent Prayer of Confession**

***Sung Response** “Take, O Take Me As I Am”

***Assurance of Forgiveness and Sharing Christ’s Peace**

Our God is a gracious God, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Friends, believe the good news of God’s forgiveness, and be at peace. The peace of our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please share Christ’s peace with one another.

Children’s Message Welcoming New Members

Marlys Benck, Dajsa Deuel, Ashlen Rutherford,
Enrique Hernandez, Richard White

Affirming the Covenant of Ames United Church of Christ

In the name of God and with God as our witness, we promise to be in community with one another as we strive to be faithful disciples of Jesus, whom we proclaim as the Christ, God's anointed.

We profess our belief in God who created and is still creating us.

We hold as our vision for the world Christ's vision of shalom, where all are welcomed, where justice reigns, where all are provided for, and where peace prevails.

We affirm that we can only be faithful disciples in community with others who share that vision and who work to achieve it.

Therefore, we promise, insofar as we are able, to attend the services of this church, to volunteer our time to its mission, and to contribute financially to its work.

Finally, we earnestly pray for the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit that God might bless all that we do together.

Welcome from UCC Members:

We gladly welcome you to join us in the hopes, labors, and joys of the Church of Christ. We promise to walk with you in Christian love and sympathy, and to encourage your growth in the Christian life.

Welcome from Friends: As fellow disciples of Christ, we rejoice to have you as brothers and sisters. May all that we do, both together and separately, serve to multiply the blessings of God for all the world.

Prayer

Welcome Song "All Are Welcome" v. 5

*Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.*

*Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:*

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Sung Prayer for Illumination "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" v. 1

Scripture Reading Genesis 29:15-28

[Jacob's uncle] Laban said to Jacob, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be." Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful. Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to lie with her." So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and Jacob lay with her. And Laban gave his servant girl Zilpah to his daughter as her maidservant. When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived

me?" Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. Complete this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work." And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

Sung Response "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" v. 2
(See music, above)

Sermon "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize"
The Rev. Mary Jane Button-Harrison

***Song** NCH #407 "How Firm a Foundation"

Prayers of the People *beginning with: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (2x)*

The Lord's Prayer *Pray the following, or a version meaningful to you:*
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 debts as we forgive our debtors; 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 of Gifts “Canon of Praise” Pachelbel, arr. Hopson
FCC/UCC Joint Choir

***Sung Response** “For the Fruits of All Creation”

***Prayer of Dedication**

Thank you, God, for filling our lives with good things. The abundance of your gifts to us is beyond our counting. Bless all that we return to you for the work of ministry among us and beyond us. Let your Spirit enliven our caring and add effectiveness to all our doing. Make us one in Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Song NCH #497** “Guide My Feet”

***Blessing**

Go forth, following as the Holy Spirit guides your feet, moving in love and compassion, pursuing justice and mercy, and trusting in the God of peace. Amen.

***Sending Music**

Welcome! Whether you are passing through, attending with a friend, searching for a church home, or seeking answers to life's questions, we are glad you are with us today. Please stay for refreshments after the service so the minister and others in our fellowship may meet you. If you want to know more about our church, please tell the minister or indicate this on our fellowship pads.

In keeping with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender, race, culture, ability, sexual orientation, or gender identity into our community of faith and affirm the worth of all people as unique individuals made in God's image. We are open to the special gifts that each person brings and invite each one to participate in the life of our church.

Nursery Care: We love having children in worship, but if you would like to use our nursery, there are qualified child care providers during worship for infants and children through Kindergarten. Our nursery is located on the second floor on the east side of the building.

Communion: Jesus included everyone present in the meals he shared, and so do we. The bread we use is free of gluten, soy, and dairy (it does contain eggs); and the wine is unfermented (aka "juice"). In our theological understanding, it is not the bread or the wine that is changed in Communion, but *we* who are changed in the sharing of it. If you are here on a Communion Sunday, we hope you will join us in this transformative meal.

To Contact the Minister If the matter is not urgent, please call the church and leave a message if Rev. Hamilton-Poore is not available. For emergencies, don't hesitate to call her cell phone at 415-686-4799. Email: terry@amesucc.org