

**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
of the United Church of Christ**



**Saturday Morning
2018 Annual Meeting
Worship Bulletin**

Matthew 5:23-24 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister^[a] has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister,^[b] and then come and offer your gift. (NRSV)

Opening of Worship—1 Corinthians 3:5-11, adapted

Leader: What then is Apollos? What is Paul?

All: Servants through whom we came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each.

Leader: Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

All: So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

Leader: The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each.

All: For we are God's servants, working together; we are God's field, God's building.

Leader: According to the grace of God given to us, like skilled master builders we lay a foundation, and someone else will build upon it.

All: Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Business Session

Hymn #370 NCH "What Gift Can We Bring?" verse 1

(Permission by One License # 708988)

Affirmation of Ministry of the PSEC Consistory

Introduction of Nominees

Leader: Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

People: To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a setting of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving but the same God is served.

Leader: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

People: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Leader: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

Leader: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

People: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is part of it.

Leader: These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Sisters and brothers, siblings in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with the responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered.

Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Individuals: I am.

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Individuals: I do, relying on God's grace.

Leader: Members of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, you have heard the promises of our siblings in Christ who have answered God's

call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to

love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this community of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name.

All: Amen.

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce: you are installed in your respective positions.

In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn #370 NCH "What Gift Can We Bring?" verse 2

Recognition of Anniversary Pastors

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: By the grace of God, the seeds of faith have been planted in each of us by faithful servants of Christ. By the grace of God, our faith has been watered by faithful servants of Christ. By the grace of God, our faith has grown and flourished.

People: By the grace of God, we have been made faithful servants, coworkers in Christ. By the grace of God, the foundation has been built. By the grace of God, we build on it together!

Leader: Today, with praise and thanksgiving, we lift up those pastors in the

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ who celebrate milestone ordination anniversaries this year.

As we call your name, please rise as you are able so that we can recognize you and your ministry.

Anniversary Lists

Anniversary Litany

Leader: Let us pray.

For the worship of God in prayer and praise, for the preaching of the Word, for the celebration of the holy sacraments, offered by these faithful servants,

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the comfort of those who mourn, for the help of those who are perplexed, for the guidance of those who seek strength, offered by these faithful servants,

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the support and nurture of families, for the guidance of children, for the calling of youth to a life of service, offered by these faithful servants,

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For guarding against evil, for fostering faithfulness, for promoting peace and justice in all the earth, offered by these faithful servants,

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the opening of minds to your truth, for the care of the needy, for the giving of hope and courage, offered by these faithful servants,

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the unity of all believers in Christ, for the carrying of the gospel into all the world, for the furtherance of the unity of all people, offered by these faithful servants,

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the consecration of life and service, in grateful remembrance of those who have gone before us, and in gratitude for our life together in the conference,

All: We give thanks to you, Almighty God, for the work of these faithful servants, and we pray for your continued blessing and guidance.

Leader: We offer thanksgiving and praise to you on this festive day.

People: We give you thanks for all who have responded to your call.

Leader: We thank you for the many ways in which their ministries have been a blessing to your people and your world.

People: We rejoice at the growth that you have given to the seeds of inspiration that have been planted through their ministry and their lives, through the singing of hymns to your praise, and through the sharing of the life-sustaining sacraments.

Leader: Look upon us with mercy and kindness.

All: Bless these ministers of word and sacrament. Sanctify our lives and our work. Help us to preserve the best of our past and to be open to new vision. May this Conference and all its ministers long continue to be a sign of your Spirit and a witness to Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hymn #370 NCH "What Gift Can We Bring?" verses 3 and 4

Blessing and Benediction

The pieces of this service have been adapted from the *UCC Book of Worship*.

Liturgists: Rev. William Worley, Rev. Sharon Morris, Rev. Cean James, Rev. Dr. Stephen Ohnsman

What Gift Can We Bring?

Jane Marshall, 1980

1 Sam. 9:7; 1 Cor. 3:8-9; 1 John 4:13-16

Unison

1 What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
2 Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,
3 Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,
4 This gift we now bring, this present, this token,

What words can convey it, the joy of this day?
who planted and watered so dreams could come true.
for knowing what-ever tomorrow may bring,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!

When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,
The Word is our promise always, for-ever;
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,

what song can we offer in honor and praise?
for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.
we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.
this song we now offer in honor and praise!