

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



**Sunday 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<sup>[a]</sup> has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister,<sup>[b]</sup> and then come and offer your gift. (NRSV)

We gather and consider how reconciliation might be made manifest in our lives.

### ***We Gather in God's Name***

#### **Gathering Music**

**Welcome** (based on Genesis 45)

One: Come closer.

*Two: Come Closer. I am your brother*

One: I am your sister – I – and you – are here, and we are still alive.

*Two: Some of us have experienced famine, while others have experienced plenty. All of us have lost parts of our lives that are meaningful.*

One: Many of us have seen relationships fractured and loving relationships interrupted. We have wept, and we have laughed; and now, we have come to a time and place to set aside what has divided us and create something fresh and exciting.

*Two: As Joseph and his brothers were reconciled, so we can be too. Please greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.*

Please stand as you are able for the Passing of the Peace of Christ

**Opening Hymn**                    “This is a Day of New Beginnings”  
(Permission by One License #708988)

Please be seated

#### **A Time of Confession**

One: We cannot be reconciled with one another without first admitting our sins. Let us begin by seeking forgiveness from God.

(Silent Prayer)

Holy God,

*All: We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. You have given us guidance and the commandment to love one another as You have loved us, yet we seem to have missed that part a lot. Forgive us if we have focused on ourselves alone. Forgive us if we have damaged Your creation. Forgive us if we have lost You in the midst of all the noise we create.*

One: Let us now admit the ways we have sinned against each other.

(Silent Prayer)

Holy God,

*All: It is an easy thing to hurt others, often without even knowing we have done it. If I have offended a child of Your redeeming, forgive me. If I have purposely injured another, whether it was today or long ago, forgive me and help me make it right. I offer my shame for my wrong behavior, with the hope that I will always keep others in mind.*

One: Let us now join in silence, seeking wisdom and renewal from God.

(Silent Prayer)

One: Hear the Good News! We have come before God and with one another to offer our confession. God hears us, and I announce to you that in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*All: Thanks be to God. Amen!*

### ***We Hear God's Word***

**From the Epistle, 2 Corinthians 5: 11-21**

Please Stand as you are able

One: This is the Gospel of God.

*All: We wait to hear what God has to say to us today.*

**From the Gospel, Matthew 5: 21-24**

One: The words of God for the people of God.

*All: Thanks be to You, God almighty, for You are still speaking.*

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister  
Penn NE Conference of the United Church of Christ

### **Offering**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Please stand as you are able

### **Hymn of Preparation**

“I Come With Joy”

### ***We Celebrate the Eucharist Together***

One: The Apostle Paul wrote that God became reconciled to humanity through the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. We are the fruits of that promise.

*All: We are all connected as the body of Christ. We are all included and loved and welcomed as creations in Your image. We life our hearts, minds, and spirits in joy!*

One: We remember that Jesus, as He was gathered in the upper room with His closest friends, took the bread. He broke it, showed it to those who were with Him to help them understand how much He loved them, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, broken for you. Take this in remembrance of me." Then He took the cup, and giving thanks, He shared it with them, saying, "This is my blood, shed for you. Drink this, in remembrance of me."

*All: We receive this sacred gift and are reminded of God's love and sacrificial generosity given to each of us. Christ died alone, God raised Him from the dead in defiance, Christ will return to be with us some day.*

One: Send the power of the Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts, that in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup, we might experience the living Christ in each one of us.

*All: Amen, Amen, Amen!*

Pleased be seated

### **The Lord's Prayer (debts)**

**We come together to receive God's Holy Communion** – Holy Communion will be celebrated by intinction. There are four stations – the station as you face the back on the right is gluten free. If you need communion brought to you, please ask a neighbor to tell the servers at one of the stations.

Music during Communion

Please stand as you are able

**Hymn of Sending** "Camina, Pueblo de Dios"  
(Permission by One License #708988)

### **Benediction & Blessing**

One: While we all share grief, loss, and regret,

*All: We also share the love of Christ, who reconciles each of us to each other.*

One: We cannot offer peace and reconciliation to the world if we are not at peace and reconciled with each other.

*All: Grant us Your peace, holy and merciful God, as we are sent out to our communities to not just exist, but to live Your calling.*

One: Go in Christ's peace, so that your part of this Conference may be a place of reconciliation and new life.

*All: We take the resurrected, reconciling, re-creating God with us. Amen!*

## **Sending Music**

Musicians: Rev. Marian Shearer, The Rev. Dr. Robert Stewart, Rev. Josh Blakesley, The Rev. Dr. Stephen Ohnsman, PhD, Rev. Karl Jones

Liturgists: Rev. William Worley, Mr. Vinod Gnanaraj, Rev. Debbie Derby, Rev. Cydney Van Dyke, Rev. Karl Jones