

Liturgy – 33rd Weekend Ordinary Time
November 18, 2023 at 5pm, Light of Christ ECC
 Responses of the people are in *bold*

Welcome:

Opening Song: # 648 Enter the Journey

ENTER THE JOURNEY

Mark Friedman and Janet Vogt

Refrain

En - ter the jour - ney. Come to the song. By God
 you are cho-sen, by name you are called to fol-low the vi-
 sion, car - ry the cross. En - ter the jour - ney of
 faith as the fam - 'ly of God.

Verses

All Cantor

1. En - ter the jour - ney, the way may be long.
2. En - ter the jour - ney, though lost and un - sure.
3. En - ter the jour - ney, though dark is the way.
4. En - ter the jour - ney, the old and the young.

All Cantor

1. En - ter the jour - ney, yet we are made strong.
2. En - ter the jour - ney, God's peace will be yours.
3. En - ter the jour - ney, do not be a - fraid,
4. En - ter the jour - ney, the king - dom is won.

1. God's spir - it will guide us, God's gifts will un -
2. And all who are thirst - ing be filled with God's
3. for God's great com - pas - sion will give you new
4. By faith now u - nit - ed, as ser - vants we

All to Refrain

1. fold. En - ter the jour - ney of hope!
2. grace. En - ter the jour - ney of faith!
3. sight. En - ter the jour - ney of light!
4. come. En - ter the jour - ney of love!

Teri: Let us continue as one expression of God's people.
+ Father, Son, Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Teri: May the Love of God, the care and compassion of the Incarnation,
and the Breath of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Penitential Rite

Teri: Let us ask God for open minds and willing hearts that we might listen
and understand, and our lives may be transformed.

Creator God, You offer grace and mercy for healing, including the
immigrant and the exiled, Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Jesus the Christ, You teach us the value of forgiveness, Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

Spirit, Your gift of reconciliation is a gift we both receive and share, live in
all countries, and reunite all races, Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Hear the Good News! Christ's life, death and resurrection have revealed
life and love eternal. Your sins are forgiven. Be refreshed and renewed
in the name of God, in the name of Love, in the name of New Life.

Together now we say. **Amen**

(Let us grab our holy noisemakers, as we sing our glory to God)

Mass of Welcoming Glory and Praise in C

MJS
Text by
Fr. Teri Harroun

Intro

REFRAIN

Bless - ed are you O
God Glo - ry and praise for - ev - er

VERSE 1

Praise - wor - thy and ex - al - ted for - ev - er and
bless - ed is your ho - ly and glo - ri - ous name for all a - ges!

To REFRAIN

VERSE 2

Bless - ed are you on the throne of your kin(g) dom Glo - ry and praise for -
ev - er Bless - ed are you who look in - to the depths
Bless - ed are you O God

To REFRAIN

Opening Prayer

Teri: Let us pray.... Loving God – When Jesus sat at tables and broke bread he proclaimed that God’s gracious love and abiding presence knows no bounds. All people, including each of us, are invited to share in this sacred meal of celebration. Today we remember that God is present at all meals, and we especially look forward to God’s presence this week at our Thanksgiving tables. May we be strengthened by the presence of God in this place, and in all the places where we sit at tables and break bread. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

First Reading: Mark

Mark : Our First Reading is from the Book of Joshua (12:1-8, 12-14a)

Joshua, son of Nun, secretly sent out two spies saying, "Go! Scout out the land, especially Jericho." When the two reached Jericho, they entered the house of an innkeeper, a prostitute, whose name was Rahab. They spent the night there.

Jericho's ruler was told, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land." The ruler of Jericho sent officials to Rahab with this order for her: "Bring out the visitors who have entered your house, for they have come to spy out the whole land."

But the woman had taken the two spies and hid them. She said to the officials, "True, those you speak of came to me, but I did not know from where they came. When it was time to close the gate at dark, they went out. Where they went, I do not know. Pursue them quickly, for you can overtake them." She had, however, brought them up to her roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax that she had laid out there. The officials, however, went in pursuit of the spies in the direction of the fords of Jordan. As soon as they had gone out, night fell, and the gate was shut.

The Israelites had not yet settled down to sleep when Rahab came up to them on the roof and said, "Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, vow to me by your God that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me an unmistakable sign of good faith that you will spare my mother and my father, my sisters and brothers, their children and all who belong to them, and deliver us from death."

The two answered: "We pledge our lives for yours."

This has been a reading from the Book of Joshua.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm #540 Peace I Leave With You

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU

Barbara Bridge

Refrain



Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Let not your

(Fine) Interlude 4 to Verses



hearts be trou-bled. Peace be with you.

Verse 1



1. Do not let your hearts be trou-bled. Have



1. faith in God and faith in me. to Refrain

Verse 2



2. In my Fa-ther's house are man-y dwell-ings. I



2. go there to pre-pare a place for you. to Refrain

Verse 3



3. I am the vine and you are the branch-es, re -



3. main in me; you will bear a - bun-dant fruit. to Refrain

Text based on John 14:1-2, 27; 15:5. Refrain and verse 1 text from The New American Bible © 1970, 1986, CCD. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music and verses 2 and 3 text © 2015, Barbara Bridge. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Second Reading: Mark

The Second Reading is from the 1st Letter to the Thessalonians (5:1-6)

Now, beloved, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the Day of God is coming like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace has come! Safety is ours!" then sudden disaster will come upon them, like labor pains for a pregnant woman. They will not escape. But you, beloved, are not unaware. The Day of God will not overtake you like a thief. You are aware and alert. We do not live in fear or ignorance. So then, let us not be lulled into laziness as is so easy to do. Let us rather be sober and alert.

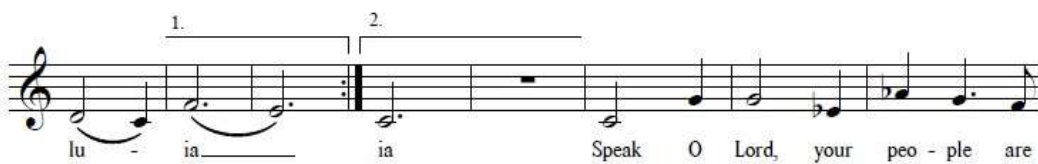
This has been a reading from the 1st Letter to the Thessalonians

Thanks be to God.

Mass of Welcoming Gospel Acclamation

MJS

Intro



Final REFRAIN



The Risen Christ be with you all. ***And also with you.***

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (25:14-30)

Glory to you, O God+

Jesus continued to teach the disciples: The kin-dom of heaven is like a wealthy landowner who was going on a journey and called in three workers, entrusting some funds to them.

The first was given five talents, the second two talents, and the third one talent, according to each one's ability. (A talent was worth more than 15 years of a laborer's wages.)

The landowner then went away. Immediately the worker who received the five talents invested it and made another five. In the same way, the worker who received the two talents doubled that figure. But the worker who received the one talent instead went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried the money.

After a long absence, the traveler returned home and settled accounts with the workers. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five, saying, "You entrusted me with five talents; here are five more." The landowner said, "Well done! You are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put in you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!"

The one who had received two talents then stepped forward with the additional two, saying, "You entrusted me with two talents; here are two more." The landowner said to this one, "Well done! You too are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!"

Finally, the one who had received one talent stepped forward and said to the landowner, "Knowing your ruthlessness - you who reap where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter - and fearing your wrath, I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here is your money back."

The landowner exclaimed, "You lout! So, you know that I reap where I do not sow and gather where I do not scatter, do you? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then," the landowner said to assistants, "take the talent from this one, and give it to the one with ten talents."

"For to all those who have, more will be given and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. So, throw this so-called worker into obscurity, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The Gospel according to Matthew. ***Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.***

Homily - Tim

Prayers of the People - Mark

Teri: I'd like to invite "Mark " back to lead us in the prayers that have been prepared for today. The rest of you may remain seated.

Mark : Our response today is God, help us do the right things for the right reasons. . ***God, help us do the right things for the right reasons.***

For the leaders of the world. May they listen for cooperation and with open minds. We pray: ***God, help us do the right things for the right reasons.***

For the church. For all of us here, and for those who we will gather with this upcoming week for Thanksgiving. May we recognize our blessings, and may those we share meals with recognize the Beatitudes in us. Let us also pray for anyone who has no one to celebrate Thanksgiving with, that they may know connection and love in their lives. We pray: ***God, help us do the right things for the right reasons.***

For those who are transgender. May they be blessed and celebrated each day, and may we recognize the Divine that lives in their precious bodies. We pray: ***God, help us do the right things for the right reasons.***

For the places and people who live amidst the violence of our world. May we recognize the ways that we can be peacemakers and do our part to end the violence. We pray: **God, help us do the right things for the right reasons.**

For those who are sick, (especially ____). May the healing touch of God bring them comfort. We pray: **God, help us do the right things for the right reasons. .**

For those who have died, (especially _____). May the live now in the full embrace of God and God's love. We pray: **God, help us do the right things for the right reasons.**

As we enter into our holiday season, we remember those who grieve and who will have a new empty chair at their gatherings. May they be gentle with themselves in this tender time, and may God be close to them with peace and comfort. We pray: **God, help us do the right things for the right reasons.**

Mark : Fr. Teri will now read the prayers that have been typed in the comments (PAUSE until Teri tells you to go on.) For these and for all the prayers we share through our hearts, we pray: **God, help us do the right things for the right reasons. .**

Mark : In addition, Prayer Partners will be available after Mass here in the Sanctuary by the back altar. For those at home, or those who have a prayer to share during the week, you can email our Prayer Companion Team at prayercompanionteam@lightofchristecc.org and someone will reach out to you. These prayer ministries welcome and invite you, in confidence, to share your concerns in more detail or depth, or even to pray for you when you can't find the words.

Teri: Collect (*adlib*)

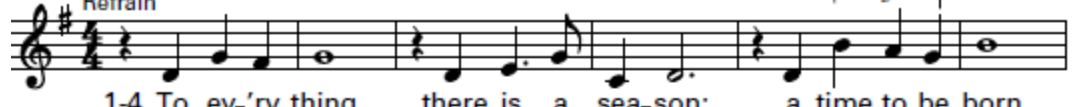
Sign of Peace

Offertory Song: #691 Parable

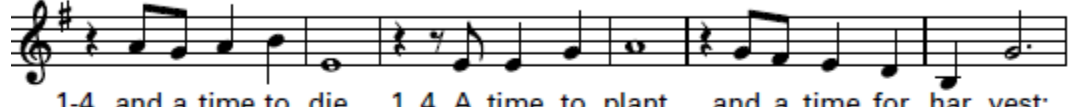
PARABLE

M.D. Ridge


Refrain




1-4. To ev-'ry thing there is a sea-son; a time to be born




1-4. and a time to die. 1, 4. A time to plant and a time for har-vest;
2. A time to speak and a time for si-lence;
3. A time for joy and a time for griev-ing;



1, 4. a time to meet and a time to part. 4. part. 1. A sow - er went
2. a time to wound and a time to heal. 2. ¶ Noth - ing can
3. a time to seek and a time to lose. 3. ¶ God's word is



1. out to sow the seed. Some of it fell up - on the path, some fell on
2. grow in bar - ren soil; bri - ars and ra - vens take their toll; still there is
3. like the far - mer's seed, root - ed in joy - ful, lov - ing hearts, grow - ing like



1. shal - low, rock - y soil, and some a - mong chok - ing thorns.
2. grain a hun - dred - fold, from seed that took root and grew.
3. grain in fer - tile ground, a har - vest that o - ver - flows.

Text: Based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-9; Matthew 13:4-8. Text and music © 1987, OCP. All rights reserved.

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Teri: Blessed are you, Loving God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this bread and this wine to place on your table. Work of earth and human hands. May these become our spiritual food and drink. **Blessed be God forever.**

Teri: Wash away my iniquity, cleanse me.
(After the offertory song finishes.)

Teri: Blessed are you, Loving God of all Creation, through your goodness we have these gifts to place on your table. They represent our entire lives, and all that we have to offer. These gifts have traveled through purses, pockets, and even the mail. May they become the Light of Christ in your world. ***Blessed be God forever.***

Teri: Pray my sisters and brothers, my family, that these our gifts, our lives may continue to be blessed by our Loving God.

May God accept the sacrifice at our hands, for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all God's world.

Teri: The peace of our God be with you all.
And also with you.

Teri: Let us open up our hearts.
We open them up to God.

Teri: Let us give thanks to our Loving God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer:

Teri: Blessed are you, O holy God, Breath and Life of the world. Your love pulses in our own veins. You have given us one another, that we have companions on the journey. In Jesus, you share your compassion, and with your Spirit you guide us and offer grace for the journeys of this life. We bless you, O holy God, as your children gathered in your circle today and we offer you our praise, with angels and shepherds and the whole company of holy ones and all of creation, we proclaim your unending glory as we sing:

Mass of Welcoming Holy, Holy, Holy

MJS
Text by
Fr. Teri Hamoun

Intro



Ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly One God of pow-er and
love hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry Ho -
san - na in the high - est Bless - ed is the
One who comes in the name of this Ho - ly One Ho - san - na in the
high - est Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Teri: God, Goodness of the World, you prepare tables before us. Send your Holy Spirit upon us gathered around tables throughout your world and gathered as your Body that we may become signs of your love and transforming work in the world. + Let also your Spirit come upon these gifts of bread and wine to make them holy so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our brother, Jesus the Christ.

Today, we gather to remember that on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his followers and his friends. We recall how he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it, and gave it to them saying - **"Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body which will be given up for you."**
(bow)

We remember also, that on the night before Jesus died, He took the cup filled with wine, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying, ***"Take this all of you and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood. The blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."***
 (bow)

Teri: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.....

Memorial Acclamation:

Mass of Welcoming
 Rising You Revealed New Life

MJS
 Text by
 Fr. Teri Harroun

Intro



Dy - ing You de - stroyed our death ris - ing You re -
 vealed new life Oh — Je - sus you are here and yet to come.

Teri:

Beloved God, Creator of all, You have invited each of us here today, And so we gather around these tables, knowing that all tables are your table, O God, and all food is sacrament. We come from many places, differing in age, differing in race, differing in orientation and abilities, differing in immigration status, differing in politics and even religion. As we come together we discover that our differences are indeed a blessing, the more difference we bring, the more fully we experience the presence of the sacred, of You God, in our midst.

We remember in prayer our chosen Shepherds, Bishop Kae and Bishop Paul. Grant them grace for leadership each day.

We trust that all our beloved who have died, now rest in your eternal embrace.

We give you thanks for Jesus the Christ, our Rabbi, who showed us the goodness of resurrection. He shared that promise of love that crosses all boundaries as he loved the outcast, healed the sick and the broken, preached Good News to the poor, was crucified and raised from the dead. May our lives reflect our gratitude as we follow Christ being Communion in God's kin-dom, to raise up love anew, and commit to responding to others and sharing the story of God in our midst.

Teri: Together now, we say.....

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours all loving God, forever and ever.

Mass of Welcoming Amen

MJS

Intro

A men A men.

A men A men.

LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer For Transgender Awareness

Teri: At LOC on Mother's Day we have a blessing of women. On Father's Day we have a blessing of men. This week was Transgender Awareness Week, and in support of our Transgender siblings I invite you to pray this Lord's Prayer for Transgender Awareness.

All: Our Mother and Father, our beloved parent, in whom we move and breathe and have our being, the hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children. May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.

Grant that our transgender loved ones might have their daily needs met—that they might find gainful employment without discrimination; that they might have access to medical care without fear; that they might have their rights and lives protected, and that they might find a loving community to belong to and call their own.

Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed your transgender children. Forgive us of the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged their unique expression of your image; for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear

As we forgive those who might have failed us.

Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But instead give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be made manifest now and forever.

Amen.

This prayer was originally written for Central Congregational UCC (Atlanta, GA) Pride Sunday worship Services on October 9, 2016

Mass of Welcoming Agnus Dei

MJS

Text by:
Fr. Teri Harroun

1. Liv - ing God, You feed the world that hun - gers for
2. Liv - ing God, You quench the world that thir - sts for

You Your Love trans - forms us To Verse 3

3. Liv - ing God You bless the world cre - a - ted by You

Grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Teri: This is the Living God. This is the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the one who transforms the world. Blessed are we who are called to this meal.

God, I am ready to receive you. Because by your invitation, I am here.

(Invitation to Communion)

We are invited to these tables just as we are.

Wherever you are on this journey of life, you are welcome here: here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Let us look for God in the breaking of this bread.

Communion Song: # 326 The Body of Christ

THE BODY OF CHRIST

Sarah Hart



1-3. This is the Bod - y of Christ, } beau - ti - ful, bro - ken and
word be - come flesh by his
gath - ered in hope and in



1. blessed; mir - a - cle of the great - est of loves, †
2. grace; mir - a - cle of a mys - t'ry no tongue †
3. faith; bound by this love, this Bod - y and Blood he



1. pres - ence of God in our midst. This is the Cup that he
2. ev - er could ful - ly ex - plain. This is the Blood of the
3. of - fers a - gain and a - gain. All of the hun - ger we



1. shares, end - less - ly emp - tied and poured; sac - ri - fice
2. Lamb, gift of a heart o - pen wide; poured from the
3. have, sat - is - fied on - ly by this; so we re -



1. made so that we might be saved † now and for - ev - er - more.
2. Cross to the al - tar where love † com - forts and fills and pro - vides.
3. ceive, we re - mem - ber, be - lieve and share so that oth - ers may live.



A - men, a - men! We are healed by the Bread of life.



A - men, a - men! We are one in the Bod - y of Christ.



We are one in the Bod - y of Christ.

Prayer after Communion:

Teri: Sacred One, Giver of Life,
Thank you for this Eucharistic, nourishment for our journey. May it inspire us to live together as the Body of Christ in your world. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

Teri: May the Love of God continue to be with you all. **And also with you.**

Teri: Let us open our hearts and ask for God's blessing.

May we love and care for one another in the name of Christ. May we be beacons of gratitude and thankful giving this week and beyond. We ask for this blessing now, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Please repeat our sending forth after me:

We are Light of Christ.... **We are Light of Christ**

Let us go forth as such..... **Let us go forth as such**

Loving and serving God..... **Loving and serving God**

As we get to love and serve in God's world....**As we get to love and serve in God's world.**

And the people respond together, **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song: # 652 River of Glory

RIVER OF GLORY

Dan Schutte

Refrain

Riv - er of glo - ry, springs of our birth, flood of God's
rich - es poured on the earth. We are born from the dark - ness
and clothed in the light! We are bathed in the glo - ry of
God! God, bathed in the glo - ry of God!

1-4 to Verses Final

Verses

1. Foun - tain of mer - cy, grace flow - ing free, streams of sal -
2. Here there is ha - ven, heal - ing and health, joy for the
3. Bread for our jour - ney God will pro - vide. Hope for all
4. Dark - ness is ban - ished, night turned a - way. Christ is our

to Refrain

1. va - tion, spill - ing with love from a tree!
2. ask - ing, love in a - bun - dance of wealth!
3. a - ges, Je - sus, com - pan - ion and guide!
4. sun - light, lift - ing and lead - ing our way!

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