

United Church of Bernardston
Worship Service
May 5, 2024
6th Sunday of Easter



Facebook Live Streaming Link – <https://www.facebook.com/ucbernardston/live/>

Opening Music - Chimes *Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing; Blessed Assurance* Liz Dawson

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude and Lighting of Candles *Preludio (G 265) – G.F. Handel* Liz Dawson

Call to Worship

L: Come to this place of prayer; God is calling us. Come, all who are burdened; there is healing here.

P: We have come to hear the Word of God. We have brought with us all that weighs us down.

L: Let voices of praise greet the one who calls us. Be glad together and sing for joy.

P: Our hearts respond with hope for a new day. Our voices join in thankful prayers and praise.

L: God reigns among us and fills the world with light. We are invited to make our home with the living God.

P: May God's ways be known within and among us. May God guide all nations in ways of peace.

Hymn *#560 - Help Us Accept Each Other (verses 1, 3 & 4)*

Unison Prayer

Almighty God, we have wandered far from your love. We have neglected your Word in the torrent of words that we hear and read every day. Our hearts are troubled amid the conflicts and violence of our world. Sometimes we find it easier to withdraw from everything, to resist change, lest it require more of us. We know you are reaching out to heal us; help us to respond. We know we are surrounded by your love. Let us feel it deep within, that we may reflect that love to all we meet. Amen.

Special Music Hymn Sing

Message for All Ages Steve Damon

The Offering of our Gifts

Offertory Music The Damons

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication *#95 - Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Scripture Lesson *Acts 10 44-48 and John 15:9-17* Sharon Weyers

Sermon *We Are All Loved* Rev. Linda Rhinehart Neas

Prayer Concerns, Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer Rev. Linda Rhinehart Neas

Musical Prayer Response: *# 2128 Come and Find the Quiet Center (vs 3)*

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for hearts to care, In the Spirit's lively scheming, there is always room to spare.

Welcome New Members

Congregational Welcome: We welcome you with joy! As partners in the common life of this congregation, we pledge to you our friendship and prayers as we grow together in God's transforming love. We give thanks that you join us now, as fellow seekers and servants!

Unison Blessing Prayer (All): Blessed One, you have called us each by name and gathered us here into this church family. Together may we accept the blessings and grace of the Spirit, growing in love and ministering in the name of our brother, Jesus. Amen.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn #624 - *Bread of the World (verse 1)*

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison): We thank you God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Closing Hymn #2142 - *Blessed Quietness (verses 1, 3, 4)*

Benediction

L: God sends us into the world to accept the cost and discover the joy of discipleship. Therefore go -- carrying with you the peace of Christ, the love of God, and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, in trial and rejoicing.

All: Amen.

Benediction Response *Shalom to You*

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friend.
In all your living and through your loving. Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude *Allegro (G 266) – G.F. Handel* Liz Dawson

Words of Hymns

Help Us Accept Each Other

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Blessed Quietness

Joys are flowing like a river,
since the Comforter has come;
He abides with us forever,
makes the trusting heart His home.

Refrain: Blessed quietness, holy quietness,
what assurance in my soul,
on the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me,
and the billows cease to roll.

Like the rain that falls from Heaven,
like the sunlight from the sky,
So the Holy Ghost is given,
coming on us from on high. [Refrain]

See, a fruitful field is growing,
blessed fruit of righteousness;
And the streams of life are flowing
in the lonely wilderness. [Refrain]

Music copyright with permission under OneLicense Number A-6918. All rights reserved.

Make sure to visit our website: www.unitedchurchofbernardston.org