

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

August 27, 2017



***From The Rising Of The Sun To Its Setting,
The Name Of The Holy One Is To Be Praised.
Psalm 113:3***

***Brecksville United Church of Christ
And
Richfield United Church of Christ***

August 27, 2017 – Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Morning has Broken

arr.by Raney

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us praise the Holy One!

People: Let us give thanks to our Creative Source, who fills the earth with blessings!

L: Let us praise the Gracious One, who fills our lives with joy!

P: Let us worship the Compassionate One, whose love is always with us!

L: Today we gather together in hope and faith,

P: To praise our Divine Source of Life and Love.

L: The Holy One who creates heaven and earth, renews and remakes us today!

All: Let our hearts and voices rejoice with praise and thanksgiving!

Hymn of Praise

I've Got Peace Like a River

Verse 1: I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul. [sing twice]

Verse 2: I've got joy like a fountain....

Verse 3: I've got love like an ocean...

Verse 4: I've got faith like an anchor....

Prayer of Confession [Unison]

Creative Holy One, you call us to be your One Family, to care for your world and all within it. You challenge us to feed the hungry, heal the hurting, and bring hope and comfort where there is grief and despair. Forgive us when we fail to do so.

Mend our broken human family. By your Holy Spirit, breathe into us the power of your amazing and abundant love and grace, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Brother, Redeemer, and Friend. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

L: People of Faith, rejoice and give thanks! The Holy One, who makes and loves us all, is here with power to heal our brokenness, forgive our sins, and fill us with newness of life!

All: Thanks be to God!

Passing the Peace

L: As God's forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ. The Peace of Christ be with you all!

P: And also with you!

The Old Testament

Exodus 3:1-15

The New Testament

Matthew 16:13-20

The Continuing Testament

from *My God is Yahweh*

by Ray Vander Laan

Sermon

Part I

What's in a Name

Pastor Dave Shackle

Sermon

Part II

Please Answer in Your Own Words

Rev. John King

Hymn of Reflection

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore.

***[Rev. King will sing each verse and refrain in Spanish,
followed by the congregation singing in English]***

Verse 1: Tú has venido a la orilla, no has buscado ni a sabios ni a ricos. Tan sólo quieres que yo te siga. [refrain]

Refrain: Señor, me has mirado a los ojos, sonriendo has dicho mi nombre.
En la arena he dejado mi barca: unto a Ti buscaré otro mar

Verse 1: You have come down to the lakeshore, Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, But only asking for me to follow. [refrain]

Refrain O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes, Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I've abandoned my small boat; Now with you, I will seek other seas.

Verse 2: Tú sabes bien lo que tengo, en mi barca no hay oro ni espadas, tan sólo redes y mi trabajo. [refrain]

Verse 2: You know full well my possessions; Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest, Just these my fishnets and will for working. [refrain]

Verse 3: Tú necesitas mis manos, mi cansancio que a otros descanse, amor que quiera seguir amando. [refrain]

Verse 3: You need my hands, my exhaustion, Working love for the rest of the weary, A love that's willing to go on loving. [refrain]

Prayers of the Church

The Prayer of Jesus

*[the additional use of "Mother" is optional, according to one's
theological understanding]*

**...Our Father-Mother, 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.**

Presenting Our Gifts and Offerings

Offertory

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr.by Raney

Prayer of Dedication [Unison]

**Accept these offerings, Gracious Holy One, Giver of every good and perfect gift.
Grant that they may represent our love - and our lives - offered more fully to you.
Use all these gifts and each one of us to help proclaim and advance your message
of compassion and grace, welcome and peace. This we ask in the name of Jesus
Christ, who brings new life to us all. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup
Come to Me and Never be hungry,
Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup,
Trust in Me and You shall not Thirst.

The Blessing

Hymn of Departure Shall We Gather at the River

Verse 1: Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever Flowing by the throne of God? [refrain]

Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Verse 2: On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will talk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.[refrain]

Verse 3: As we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. [refrain]

Verse 4: Soon we'll reach the silver river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.[refrain]

***Benediction**

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING RUCC & BUCC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

RUCC Prayer List Maggie Gerber, Ron & Gretchen Gehring, Jean Schmidt, Jan Nagel, Ida May Hammond, Joan Reed, Lois Eckart, Deanna Clucas, Shannon Best, Bob Ehlers, Carter Wilmot, Sharon Murphy, Mel Pay, Nicolas & Teresa Lindsey, Ed McDevitt & Arthur Graham, Helen Hiatt.

BUCC Prayer List Phyllis Molnar, Fred Pesek, Evelyn Seager, Betty Gifford, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Bill Simpson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, Mary D'Agostino, Shirley Duncan, Donn Whyte, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

TODAY'S LOOSE OFFERING will go to the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, to help support the Coalition's continued responsibility for the UCC's church-wide ONA movement, anti-bullying and suicide prevention efforts, and may other programs to prevent discrimination against LGBTQ people - in churches and in society.

RUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The RUCC Bicentennial Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 30, at 7 pm.

Bell Choir practice begins on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 pm.

Sunday School begins for all ages on September 10.

Choir Practice begins on September 10, after the 10:15 service. ►

Birthday's This Week: Happy Birthday this week to Chris Hayes, Becky Monegan, Maryke Bard and Jan Nagel.

Anniversaries This Week: Happy Anniversary to Joe & Sue Reineck, Shellie & Will Hart, Tim & Phyllis Sommer, Tom & Sherri Barker.

Office Update: Becky will be back in the office on Wednesday, August 30.

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHOWING HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS is a Divine imperative in both the Old and the New Testaments. One important and rewarding way that several of our BUCC members are doing this, is through their volunteer work at Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers' Academy. Assisting these students who are newly arrived in our country not only helps them academically, it also acclimates them to their new culture and lets them know that they are welcomed and affirmed by good hearted people! If you would like to learn more about volunteering, please talk with Pastor Dave [440-526-4364]

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE CANCELLED September 3rd. We do not have a teacher, since many people will be out of town, for the holiday weekend, including me! Thank you, Heidi Spangler.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY is celebrating Rally Day on September 10th with a potluck and school supplies collection. All are welcome to gather in Pilgrim Hall after church. Please bring a main dish item to share. You may drop it off in the kitchen before church, it will be kept warm or cold per your instructions.

In addition we are collecting school supplies this year for Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy. Several of our members volunteer at this school which welcomes children new to this country.

Please start now while the sales are in progress to gather school supplies. Some suggestions are: #2 Pencils, Pens, 8.5X11" Copy Paper, Spiral Lined Notebooks, Colored construction paper, Crayons, and Elmer's Glue [small bottles, glue sticks]

THE FACILITIES MINISTRY is looking for anyone wishing to help maintain the landscaping. Weeding is the primary need and anyone who can help would be greatly appreciated. If there are any questions, please contact Cliff Cribbs. [440-526-4728]

Readings

The Old Testament - Exodus 3:1-7; 9-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Holy One appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; Moses looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Holy One saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Holy One said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.... So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is God's name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. 'I AM has sent me to you.' Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Holy One, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

The New Testament Matthew 16:13-20 (NRSV) "Who Do You Say I Am?"

¹³ When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Continuing Testament - from *My God is Yahweh* - by Ray Vander Laan [edited]

Names are important in Western culture. Parents choose names for their children usually after much thought and discussion. For the rest of a person's life, he or she is identified by the name which was selected for them, often before their birth. Yet the significance of names today can't compare with the significance of names in biblical times. Ancient peoples thought that a name expressed the essence or identity of a person. According to Proverbs 22:1, "A good name is more desirable than great riches!" In the biblical world, a good name sometimes meant more than even a good reputation, because it identified the character of the person carrying it.

To name someone, or something, implies that the namer understands enough about the named and its circumstances to describe it and make use of it. So, when God says "I know you by name" [Exodus 33:17], it means more than just recognition; it indicates that the Holy One understands completely who and what we are. To name someone, or something, also implies that the namer has authority over the named. God could change Abram's name to Abraham, because God had authority over him. Pharaoh could rename Joseph for the same reason. This aspect of the naming process proved significant for the Hebrews when it came to their knowing and using God's name. To use God's name means one understands the essential character and being of the Holy One; that one can fully identify and know the Divine Creator of All Things. But who among us can truly understand the Sovereign Source of the universe? More importantly, who among us would claim authority over our Ultimate and Transcendent Authority?