

United Church of Chapel Hill

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February 5, 2012
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Gathering

Preparation

I stand by the bed where a young woman lies, her face post-operative, her mouth twisted - palsy, clownish. A tiny twig of the facial nerve, the one to the muscles of her mouth, has been severed . . . to remove the tumor in her cheek, I had cut the little nerve. The young husband is in the room. He stands on the opposite side of the bed, and together they seem to dwell in the evening lamplight, isolated from me, private. . . . "Will my mouth always be like this?" she asks. "Yes," I say, "it will. It is because the nerve was cut." She nods and is silent. But the young man smiles, "I like it," he says. "It is kind of cute." He bends to kiss her crooked mouth, and I am so close that I can see how he twists his own lips to accommodate her, to show her that their kiss still works. . . . I hold my breath and let the wonder in.

Richard Selzer, *Moral Lessons: Notes on the Art of Surgery*

Ring of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship in Music

8:45 Organ Voluntary

Nun Bitten Wir

Buxtehude

11:00 Anthem

Resonet in Laudibus (Resounding with Praise)

Z. Randall Stroepe

Text from Opus Musicum (1586) by Jacob Handl (1550-1591)

Children's Choir

Resonet in laudibus, cum jucundis plausibus, Syon cum fidelibus.

(Resounding with praise and delightful applause with the faithful in Zion.)

Welcome to Worship at United Church of Chapel Hill

! *If you are new to our church, welcome!*
Allow us the opportunity to answer your questions and provide any needed information. Please identify yourself to one of our pastors and sign the *Friendship Register* and include your address, email, & phone number that we may send you a newsletter. After worship, join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. In the narthex you will find literature about United Church.

! *"In Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, slave nor free."*
We invite people of every age, race, marital status, sexual orientation, means, ability and spiritual tradition to join with us in the love of God and neighbor: through worship, dedication to education and commitment to service.

! Large-print bulletins, children's bulletins, and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

! In the narthex as you enter is a book to write joys to be shared and prayer requests. The requests and the joys *that people wish to have shared* will be brought forward to share during the prayers of the church.

! Please remember to turn off your cell phone.

! Please wear your name tag.

! While we are accustomed to applaud for singers, dancers and instrumentalists in a concert setting, here they offer gifts as acts of worship.

Bold indicates congregational response.

* Please stand, if able.

+ You may enter the sanctuary after the Congregation has been seated.

! We welcome babies and toddlers to our worship. Rocking chairs are available in the back of the sanctuary if you wish or need to rock your baby. You may also go to the Family Parlor across the Narthex where the service is broadcast.

! Nursery care for children in the first grade and younger is available in rooms 127 and 130.

! We encourage children in second grade and above to worship with their families for the entire service. To enhance their experience, children's bulletins are available in the narthex, as are children's Bibles and Bible storybooks. Nursery and pre-school care are available downstairs during worship.

! From September through May, each service will have at least one component explicitly planned for young children. Mostly, this will mean a "Children's Message" up front, but sometimes it will mean an anthem sung by the Children's Choir, or a baptism to which all the children are invited to come forward to witness.

No matter
Who you are or
Where you are
in life's journey
You are welcome here.

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Liturgist: 8:45 Patrick Campbell, *Divinity School Intern*

* CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION

11:00 Jill Edens

Leader: Have you heard? God heals the broken and blesses the wounded.

People: Sing praise to God!

Leader: Have you heard? God forgives, and the past is over and done.

People: Sing praise to God!

Leader: Have you heard? God lifts up the downcast and peace to the troubled.

People: Sing praise to God!

Leader: Have you heard? God smoothes our rough places and makes a way for us.

People: Sing praise to God!

Leader: Have you heard? God gives power to the weak and renews our strength.

Sing praise to God.

People: We come to worship the living God.

+* HYMN 6, vss 1-4

Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good

MIT FREUDEN ZART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: It is too easy to grow faint with being busy, exhausted with doing good, and restless with waiting. Let us come before God asking that our strength be renewed as we let go of our burdens. Let us, confess before the Lord our God.

Please be seated.

People: O God, we live as if we have forgotten our own story: that out of goodness and love you created us. Instead we toss and turn throughout the night and wake without hope. We see clouds without rejoicing over refreshing rain. It is as if we have lost the name you gave us. Heal us and lift us up, we pray. Amen.

--silent confession--

Leader: God calls each of us by name. The One who knows our hearts is eager to forgive the truly penitent and to empower those who have grown weary. Your strength is being renewed in these moments. You will mount up with wings like eagles. You will run and not be weary. You will walk and not faint. Praise God!

+* PASSING OF THE PEACE

IN WORD AND IN SIGN

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Passing the peace of God is the practice of extending ourselves in forgiveness and reconciliation. We exercise this discipline of faith in this setting as preparation for those occasions when it is difficult but right to do so.

* GLORIA

LOBE DEN HERREN

**Praise God, our guard-ian, who lov-ing-ly of-fers cor-rec-tion,
Who, as on ea-gle's wings, saves us from sin-ful de-jec-tion,
Have you observed, how we are al-ways pre-served
by God's pa-ren-tal af-fect-ion?**

Encountering the Word

LESSON

Isaiah 40:21-31, NRSV

Praise is the counterpoint to lament. These verses are the opening statement of Second Isaiah and are intended to speak to people in exile who have been made weary, helpless and estranged. Against the laments of exile, Isaiah reaffirms that God the creator has overcome the chaos of the void and made a world of awesome beauty and of astounding intricacy and of purposeful order.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God?" Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

THE DAY’S PSALM

New Century Psalter (p. 720), Psalm 147:1-11

Cantor: Jenny Anderson

This is a praise psalm that testifies that God the creator is also God the provider and the God who cares for the downtrodden. Specifically, this divine activity is focused on God’s steadfast love for Israel which the church came to understand includes those chosen by Christ. The themes of Second Isaiah are echoed in this psalm.

LESSON

1 Corinthians 9:16, 19-23, *The Message*, rev.

Paul places sharing the grace of the gospel for the sake of others ahead of the rights the gospel itself bestows. When we set out to share the gospel, we are to do so by meeting people where they are. It means moving out of our comfort zone and getting involved.

If I proclaim the Message, it’s not to get something out of it for myself. I’m *compelled* to do it, and doomed if I don’t!

Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living moralists, the defeated, the demoralized – whoever. I didn’t take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ – but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I’ve become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempt to lead those I meet into a God-oriented life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn’t just want to talk about it; I wanted to be *in* on it!

Reader: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

8:45

Resonet in Laudibus (Resounding with Praise)

Z. Randall Stroope

Text from *Opus Musicum* (1586) by Jacob Handl (1550-1591)

Children’s Choir

*Resonet in laudibus, cum jucundis plausibus, Syon cum fidelibus.
(Resounding with praise and delightful applause with the faithful in Zion.)*

11:00

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Early American hymn tune,
arr. Alice Parker
Chancel Choir

*Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
as I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.
Hallelujah, praise the Lamb, Hallelujah, Glory to the great I AM.
And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day,*

*passes swiftly o’er the waters to the city far away.
Souls have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest;
and I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.*

+ CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Merritt Chesson, *Divinity School Intern*

- *Children are encouraged to remain in worship with their parents. Bibles, Bible storybooks and children’s bulletins are available just outside the doors of the sanctuary.*
 - *Children first grade and younger may go with an usher to the nursery. Children who are 2 and younger go downstairs to room 130, the first room on the right, and children age three through first grade go to room 127.*
 - *At 8:45 am, children may participate in the Children’s Choir with Paige Barnett in the Music Room: Please note that Children’s Choir ends promptly at 9:55 am and parents must pick up their children at that time.*
- *We love babies; however, if your baby is crying you may wish to step into the Family Parlor across the narthex which is equipped with audio so that you may comfort your child and still hear worship. An usher will be glad to help you and your child settle into the parlor area.*

LESSON

Mark 1:29-39, *NRSV*

God’s plans for us are greater than our own hopes. Jesus’ healings care for human need and also point beyond themselves to a coming reign of God in which we are all partners by healing broken lives and a broken world. As Peter’s mother-in-law was raised up to minister to the needs of others, so are we.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Reader: **The Word of God for the People of God.**

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Richard Edens

Giving Thanks in Response to the Word

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

The time of prayer will begin with prayers offered by the congregation followed with the response, “**Lord, hear our prayer.**” Prayer will conclude with the pastoral prayer and the Lord’s Prayer,

Our Father, 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, for ever. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER

Please sign the friendship register you’ll find in your row. Please share your address and email address. When it reaches the end of the pew, please pass it back and take a look and see who is sitting next to you and where that person lives; there may be someone who lives in your neighborhood sitting right next to you. Be sure to greet those sitting next to you after the service of worship.

+ Offertory

Lobe den Herren

Lisa Shoemaker-Lohmeyer

*Doxology

LOBE DEN HERREN

Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus-tains all cre-a-tion!

Sing praise, my soul, in pro-found and com-plete ad-o-ra-tion!

**Glad-some re-joice – or-gan and trum-pet and voice –
join-ing God’s great con-gre-ga-tion.**

* Dedication of the Offering

Thank you, God, for the ministry of hope and healing that Jesus lived on earth. Use our offerings to extend Christ’s mission where we cannot go, and to support our efforts to be faithful where we are. Amen.

* Service of Communion

Celebrant: 8:45 Jenny Shultz

11:00 Susan Steinberg

Invitation

Friends, this table is not our table, it is God’s Table.

**It is for those who love God
and who want to love God more.**

So, come,
you who have much faith

and you who have little,

you who have been here often

and you have not been for a long time,

you have tried to follow

and you who have failed.

Come, this table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God’s people.

Everyone is welcome at Christ’s table.

(You may be seated.)

Let us now hear and proclaim the witness of this Table.

**On the night on which Jesus was betrayed,
he sat at supper with his disciples.**

**While they were eating, he took a piece of bread,
blessed it, broke it and gave it to them with the words,**

‘This is my body. It is broken for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.’

Later, he took a cup of wine, saying,

‘This cup is God’s new covenant, sealed with my blood.

Drink from it, all of you, to remember me.’

So now, following Jesus’ example and command, we take this bread and cup, the ordinary things of the world which Christ will make special.

>>> *Continued* >>

Let us pray.
Gratitude, praise, hearts lifted high, voices full and joyful . . . these you deserve.

**For when we were nothing, you made us something.
When we had no name and no faith and no future,
you called us your children.
When we lost our way or turned away,
you did not abandon us.
When we came back to you,
your arms opened wide in welcome.**

And look, you prepare a table for us
offering not just bread, not just a cup, but your very self
so that we may be filled, forgiven, healed, blessed and made new again.

**Send down your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and the cup
that they may become for us your body,
healing, forgiving and making us whole;
and that we may become, for you, your body,
loving and caring in the world until your reign comes. Amen.**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

We will receive the elements by coming forward for intinction. Simply take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. [We serve only non-alcoholic grape juice. For those with wheat allergies, we have a gluten-free station next to the pulpit where only gluten-free crackers will be dipped into that cup.] If you would like to be served at your seat, please signal an usher, and we will bring the elements to you.

As you are able, please sing as others come forward. We will sing as needed

8:45am service

HYMN 471	<i>Precious Lord, Take My Hand</i>	PRECIOUS LORD
HYMN 342	<i>Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread</i>	ST. FLAVIAN
HYMN 345	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	PICARDY

11:00am service

HYMN 341	<i>Great Spirit God</i>	LACQUIPARLE
HYMN 342	<i>Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread</i>	ST. FLAVIAN

HYMN 345

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

Healing Prayer

Healing prayer is offered at this time at the back of the sanctuary near the prayer corner where a pastor and the parish nurse will be present for those who wish to receive laying on of hands for healing. You may come for yourself or you may come as a channel of God's healing power for someone else.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ.

Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sending

* HYMN 576

For the Healing of the Nations

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

* BLESSING IN WORD

* RESPONSE

LOBE DEN HERREN

**Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com-mend-ing.
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweet-ly blend-ing.
God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:
a-men, a-men never ending.**

BLESSING IN MUSIC

Lobe den Herren

John Behnke

We invite you to remain in the Sanctuary
to receive the blessing of the postlude.
Otherwise...please exit quietly.

You may greet the pastors under the portico

or join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

Israel's praise is a dangerous, joyous witness of a different world, a world "this age" does not suspect, permit or credit. No wonder the rulers of this age want to stop the singing, or pollute it with ideology and managed slogans! But Israel has not stopped singing and Yahweh has not stopped governing, enthroned on the praises of Israel (Ps. 22:3).

Against the deathliness of idolatry and the falsehood of ideology, Israel sings another world to reality. The subject of Israel's songs is Yahweh who works wonders in the earth, wonders marked by justice, equity, and righteousness. The outcome of Israel's praise is another world marked by justice, mercy and peace. Israel sings out of a long memory of transformations, out of a passionate hope for "all things new." Israel always *sings this song up from* concrete transformations to a new, coherent, authorized world. It is my judgment that in Western Christianity, so long self-assured and legitimate, our primary pastoral task is to *sing back down* to the specificity of hurt, to the amazement of healing, to the miracle of transformation.

Such praise is indeed our duty and our delight, the ultimate vocation of the human community, indeed of all creation. Yes, all of life is aimed toward God and finally exists for the sake of God. Praise articulates and embodies our capacity to yield, submit and abandon ourselves in trust and gratitude to the one whose we are. Praise is not only a human requirement and a human need, it is also a human delight. We have a resilient hunger to move beyond self, to return our energy and worth to the One from whom it has been granted. In our return to that One, we find our deepest joy. That is what it means to "*glorify God and enjoy God forever.*"

Walter Brueggemann,
*Israel's Praise:
Doxology against Idolatry and Ideology*

God's grace through community involves something far greater than other people's support and perspective. The power of grace is nowhere as brilliant nor as mystical as in communities of faith. Its power includes not just love that comes from people and through people but love that pours forth among people, as if through the very spaces between one person and next. Just to be bathed in such an atmosphere is to be bathed in healing power.

Gerald May, *Addiction and Grace*

SERVICE NOTES

FLOWERS today are given by Kathy and Lucas Neas in celebration of Tom Neas' birthday.

COFFEE HOSTS

8:45 Weezie Williams
11:00 Marie Conteh

SOUND SYSTEM VOLUNTEERS

8:45 Scott Sheppard
11:00 Ed Flowers

USHERS

8:45 Shu Wen Jeuland, Clay Whybark, Neva Whybark, Gina Upchurch, Andrea Vizoso, Julie Trotter, Mary Willingham, James Willingham

11:00 Suzanne Lamport, Janice Ching, Janet Flowers, Derek Harrison, Dave Otto, Leigh Mote-Scroggs, Bob Hotte

ASL Interpreter:
Caterina Phillips



UNITED CHURCH STAFF

Pastors *Jill Edens, Richard Edens*
 Assoc. Pastor, Children's Ministries *Susan Steinberg*
 Assoc. Pastor, Youth & Young Adults *Jenny Shultz*
 Assoc. Pastor, Spanish Language Ministries *David Mateo*
 Parish Nurse *Alyson Breisch*
 Director of Music Ministry *Jennifer Anderson*
 Organist & Keyboard Coordinator *Mary Beth Petersen*
 Divinity Student Interns *Merritt Chesson*
Patrick Campbell
 Office & Communications Manager *Rinnie Orr*
 Bookkeeper/Business Manager *Duane Gilbert*
 Hostess *Mirna Rodriguez*
 Nursery Director *Alison Robertson*
 Nursery Assistants *Dah Htoo, Elsa Steiner, Anna*

Mee

Custodians *Ain Thee, Anna Allen, Paula Espinosa, Claudia Galvez, Sandra Hernandez*