

**BLOOMING GROVE**  
**United Church of Christ**  
2 Old Dominion Road  
Blooming Grove, NY 10914



**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**20th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 10, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.**

The Rev. Dr. Linda U. Barnes – Pastor  
Janiece Kohler – Minister of Music  
Elsa Cameron – Liturgist

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**GREETING**

Rev. Linda Barnes

**PRELUDE**

“Lead Me, Lord/He Leadeth Me”

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

When God seems distant,  
**we seek what we long to find.**  
When life overtakes us,  
**we seek what we long to find.**  
When trouble is near and danger is close,  
**we seek what we long to find.**  
Come find in this place the One we both long to find  
and who longs to find us.

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Rev. Barnes

Source of Life, we come to this place at your invitation. You gather us into your presence and hold us in love. You welcome us all, and challenge us to welcome one another in Christ’s name. Help us to recognize in each person here the greatness that you perceive, and to celebrate each one as a child of God. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty and Holy One, we cannot begin to count all our possessions. We have things tucked away in boxes we haven't opened in years, and still we acquire more. We have so much, and yet there are those in our communities who can fit all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart. We know that you, O God, will defend the poor and come to them in their need.

**But we, O God, need your forgiveness, for we are more attached to our things that we willingly acknowledge. Help us more honestly confront our attachment to things, so we can share our abundance more fully. Help us know your love more deeply, and more fully show compassion to others.**

*(Silent prayer)*

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

True comfort comes from God's love for us, and by responding with that same love to family, friend, neighbor, and stranger. By God's love we are forgiven. Let us do likewise.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

May the powerful peace of Christ be with you, now and always.  
**And also with you.**

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT      "Story of the Falling Leaves"**

## **MEDITATION ON A SONG OF FAITH      "The Summons"**

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 90:12-17      Elsa Cameron**

So teach us to count our days  
**that we may gain a wise heart.**  
Turn, O God! How long?  
**Have compassion on your servants!**  
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
**so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**  
Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
**and as many years as we have seen evil.**

Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
**and your glorious power to their children.**  
Let the favor of the Sovereign our God be upon us, and  
prosper for us the work of our hands--  
**O prosper the work of our hands!**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Elsa Cameron

God, you promise never to forsake us, but to bring us to life, nurture us with your presence and sustain us even in the hour of death. Meet us in our deepest doubts when we feel abandoned, drowning in our fears. Visit us in the tension between our yearning and our anger, that we may know your mercy and grace in our times of need. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Old Testament Lesson:**

**Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyard, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

**Epistle Lesson:**

**Hebrews 4:12-16**

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Gospel Lesson:**

**Mark 10:17-31**

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at those words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

**SERMON**

**"Who's Asking?"**

Rev. Barnes

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**HYMN #493**

**"O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

- 1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
Remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend:  
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**
- 2. O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will!  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control!  
O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul!**

**3. O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
That where you are in glory your servant shall be, too;  
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend!**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

Rev. Barnes

By giving our first fruits to God, we help to ensure that those who have little will receive something, and we who have much do not keep it entirely for ourselves. Having recognized the many gifts we bring and receive from one another, let us share what we have in gratitude.

*We dedicate offerings given through our church's website, placed on the offering plate by the door, or mailed to the church (PO Box 101, Blooming Grove, NY 10914). We give thanks to God for each contribution.*

**UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God among us, you show us who you are by what you give us. What we give others is a sign of who we are, too. Bless our gifts, that they may do your work in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

**"O Word of God Incarnate"**

*O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky,  
We praise thee for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps shines on from age to age.*

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Barnes

Count your days that you may gain a wise heart. Let God satisfy you in the morning with steadfast love, that you may rejoice and be glad all your days. Let God's favor be upon you to prosper the work of your hands, and may the peace of Christ be with you always. Amen.

**PARTING HYMN #81, ver. 1**

**"God Be with You"**

**God be with you till we meet again;  
By good counsel guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.**

**Refrain**

**Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet  
God be with you till we meet again. Amen.**

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