

**BLOOMING GROVE
United Church of Christ**

2 Old Dominion Road
Blooming Grove, NY 10914



**WORSHIP SERVICE
20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 17, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.**

The Rev. Dr. Linda U. Barnes – Pastor
Janiece Kohler – Minister of Music
Vanessa Elliott – Liturgist

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING

Rev. Linda Barnes

PRELUDE: “Meditation on ‘How Great Thou Art’” (Hine/Carter)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We may come here for a glimpse of glory, but Jesus asks us:
“Can you drink the cup that I drink?”

The cup of Jesus’ own life: struggle and joy, suffering and hope. Fullness of life!

We may come here to get close to Jesus, and Jesus asks us:
“Can you be baptized with my baptism?”

Baptized into the reign of God, where the Spirit breaks down barriers among all people and creates new relationships!

We may come here for honor or fame, but Jesus challenges us:
“To become great you must serve!”

Why are we here? To drink the cup of fullness of life; to immerse ourselves in Jesus’ struggle for justice and peace; to learn how to serve so that the world may be healed.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy Dwelling Place, your tent is wide enough to provide shelter for all who seek you, food for all who hunger, and healing for all who suffer. Meet us here today and fill us with confidence in your presence, so that we can risk sharing Jesus' cup and his baptism, so the world will become the place of love and justice you desire for all. Shelter us with your light and clothe us with your heavenly garments. Teach us how we may best serve ourselves and one another on this daring adventure. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we read Jesus' call to be unselfish servants God, we are embarrassed. We are embarrassed because we know how hard we work to get our own way; we know how much we want to be first in every line; we know how we want the biggest piece; we admit that we dream of winning every game, every prize, every award.

Even when we try to follow your example, we find that we think first about ourselves and what we want and need. Forgive us and remake us into people who can love and serve others.

(Silent prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus did not give up on James or John, or any of the other self-centered disciples. Instead he kept loving them and forgiving them and teaching them. He worked in them and through them. And he will do the same with us!

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 "Teamwork" Rev. Barnes

MEDITATION: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (Larkin)

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In his arms he'll take and shield thee, thou will find a solace there.*

RESPONSIVE READING

Vanessa Elliott, leader

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Bless God, O my soul.

O God my God, you are very great.You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.At your rebuke they flee;
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.They rose up to the mountains;
**they ran down to the valleys to the place that you
appointed for them.**You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.O God, how manifold are your works!
**In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full
of your creatures.**

Bless God, O my soul.

Praise be to God!**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Vanessa Elliott

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

Vanessa Elliott & Rev. Barnes

Old Testament Lesson:**Job 38:1-7**

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

Epistle Lesson:**Hebrews 5:1-10**

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as

well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you" as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 10:35-45

James and John the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

SERMON

"A New Way"

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 #305 "You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim"

- 1. You servants of God, your Sovereign proclaim,
And publish abroad that wonderful name:
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol,
Who, sovereign and glorious, now rules over all.**

- 2. God rules from on high, almighty to save,
And still God is nigh, whose presence we have.
The great congregation God's triumphs shall praise,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus always.**

- 3. Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud for what God has done.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Still veiling their faces, they worship the Lamb.**

- 4. Then let us adore and render God's right,
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing and infinite love.**

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Barnes

Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. Let us follow this example and share our gifts, so we may also experience the joys and challenges of serving.

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

Parent God, may this offering assist us in continuing Christ's work in the world to heal the grief, transgressions, and illnesses that oppress and harm your creation. Amen.

POSTLUDE: "Take the Name of Jesus with You" (Doane/Berry)

*Take the name of Jesus with you, child of sorrow and of woe.
It will joy and comfort give you, take it then where'er you go
Precious name, O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heaven...*

*Take the name of Jesus ever, as protection everywhere.
If temptations 'round you gather, breathe that holy name in prayer.
Precious name, O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heaven...*

CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Barnes

Our lives are filled with struggles and suffering; none of us are immune. The key to life in Christ is to help one another along the way, knowing that God is with us in every moment. If we seek to serve and lift one another up, committing to struggle together, we will witness Christ's glory. And may the peace of Christ be with you, now and 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.**

