

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



WORSHIP SERVICE
22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 24, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Linda U. Barnes – Pastor
Janiece Kohler – Minister of Music
Elly Hopkins – Liturgist

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING

Rev. Linda Barnes

PRELUDE “Prelude on Hymn Tune ‘DIX’” (*Conrad Kocher*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, raise your voices in praise!

I will give thanks to you, gracious God, with every part of my being – my voice, my heart, my mind!

Look! We see our friends gathered here! And new friends we have yet to meet. All are your children.

We come to you, holy God, with awe and wonder at all the marvelous things you have done and can do. You are loving and faithful and wise; you will be with us forever.

True wisdom comes from you merciful God! We can trust in what you ask us to do, for your laws of love and justice will last forever!

We praise you, holy God, this day and every day.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Barnes

Ever-calling God, we give thanks that you have gathered us into your church and graced us with your faithful presence. We ponder our history, ancient and still developing, and marvel at the many expressions of your church. Grant us the vision to be a part of this new moment in your Church that will bring ever more joy and justice to the world. Continue to gather us, the diverse lot of us, into Jesus; vision and dream that your faithful people may be one in you. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we want to be a church open to your transforming love, yet cling to comfortable ways:

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!

When we want to honor your “still-speaking voice” but are fearful of insights which challenge old assumptions:

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!

When we want to live into Jesus’ dream of oneness but fail to listen to voices of difference:

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!

(Silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Take heart, get up! Jesus is calling to us! We trust in the one who has guided the church for two millennia. Through Christ, God forgives us our failings and continues to call us into a community of mutual love and forgiveness, through God’s overflowing mercy.

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

“Shush”

Rev. Barnes

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Prayerful Meditation” *(Eugene Englert)*

RESPONSIVE READING

Elly Hopkins, leader

Psalm 34:1-8

I will bless God at all times;

God’s praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in God;

let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify God with me,

and let us ealt God’s name together.

I sought God, and God answered me,

and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to God, and be radiant;

so your faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor soul cried, and was heard by God,
and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of God encamps around those who fear God;
God's angel delivers them.
O taste and see that God is good;
Happy are those who take refuge in God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elly Hopkins

O Jesus Christ, teacher and healer, you heard the cry of the blind beggar when others would have silenced him. Teach us to be attentive to the voices others ignore, so that we might respond through the power of the Spirit to heal the afflicted and to welcome the abandoned for your sake and the sake of the gospel. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Lesson:

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Then Job answered the Lord: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

Epistle Lesson:

Hebrews 7:23-28

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted

above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

SERMON

"Take Heart"

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 #410

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

- 1. If you but trust in God to guide you,
with hopeful heart through all your ways,
You will find strength, with God beside you,
to bear the worst of evil days;
For those who trust God's changeless love
build on the rock that will not move.**
- 2. Only be still, and wait God's pleasure
in cheerful hope, with heart content,
Trusting that grace which knows no measure
will by unbounded Love be sent;
Nor doubt our inmost wants are clear
to One who holds us always near.**
- 3. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving;
offer your service faithfully,**

**And trust God's word, through undeserving,
there find the truth to set you free;
God will not fail to guide and bless
those who embrace God's faithfulness.**

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Barnes

Our ancestors in faith and church-building show us the way to share the gifts God has given us with the whole community. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God with heartfelt gratitude, commitment, and praise.

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

Transform our lives, O God, and let these gifts change the world into which we send them. Multiply them to be a blessing of justice and peace in the world you love! Amen.

POSTLUDE "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (J. Carter)

*O for thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!*

*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of your name.*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Barnes

May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, 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.**

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