

The First Church in Belfast

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

February 10, 2019

10:00 a.m.

WE ARE GATHERED IN

GATHERING MUSIC "Grand Fugue" by John Zundel
Music Director: Larry Philbrick

WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE "Voluntary in D major" by Henry Heron
BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather in, dear friends, let us listen for the call of the Spirit.
We must become very silent to hear its singing in the wind.
We must endeavor to be still to feel its urging within our hearts.
A soft, subtle voice whispers deep in our core.

-silence-

“The world is in peril...who shall I send?”
“The children are lost and afraid...who will go to them?”
“The nations are warring...who will stop the guns?”
“The earth is in turmoil...all creatures in danger, who will care?”

-silence-

Come, dear people, be silent, listen, have courage, become strong.

The Spirit keeps calling our name.

***OPENING HYMN** “Here I Am, Lord”

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

CHORAL ANTHEM "*Amazing Grace*" by Arlen Clarke

YOUNG PEOPLE’S MESSAGE AND MINISTRY

“Going Fishing”

***GREETING OF PEACE**

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

MEDITATIVE MOMENT

“Our own historical season...bears an eerie resemblance to the time when Christianity began on the three continents of the Mediterranean basin. Like that time, ours is a “Hellenistic” era – diverse, cosmo-politan, multilingual, multiracial, multi religious, fragmented, eclectic, riddled by extremes of all kinds, and more than a little violent. We often feel dislocated and off-center, just as people did then. In the world of early Christianity, the solidity of empire was giving way, the new configurations were in the making, many of them bedeviled by chaos and confusion. Almost everyone worried about moral degradation. Not a few sought new, saving communities and ways of life, whereas others could not conceive that the Roman Empire would ever come to an end.”

From “Shaping Communities” by Larry Rasmussen

How might the church become a “saving community” in our time?

-silence-

***HYMN** “Be Still, My Soul” vs. 1&2 #488

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 6:1-8 Judy Williams

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 138 (p. 714, *NCH*)

GOSPEL READING Luke 5:1-11

MESSAGE *“The Fishing Grounds”*

WE LIVE THE WORD

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 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.

INVITATION TO GIVE

Music: "Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ" by Johann Pachelbel

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, one.

(Note: The First Church honors the diverse languages of faith. Please sing with words that are meaningful to you. Other versions of the Doxology are found in our hymnal, #776-781.)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of abundance, we offer these gifts to you with open hands and hearts. May we use them to build a ministry of love here and now that transforms our community as it transforms us in the way of Jesus. Amen.

WE ARE SENT AND BLESSED

***CLOSING HYMN** “Community of Christ” #314

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Concerto (March)" by Matthew Camidge