

The First Church in Belfast
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
August 5, 2018
10:00 a.m.

WE ARE GATHERED IN

WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP

When the first Christians started to follow “the Way” of Jesus, they met in homes to pray, read the stories, and break bread.

They gathered on Sunday, the day that Jesus rose, to celebrate his presence with them.

After the gathering, they went to those in need to share their food.

They also shared their spirit. The Christian community grew.

Let us follow the early disciples in the Way of Jesus, opening our hearts, hearing the stories, and breaking bread.

And when we part, let us carry our love into the world.

***OPENING HYMN** “Enter, Rejoice, and Come In” #73

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

YOUNG PEOPLE’S CIRCLE *“I am the Church”*

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

-silence-

In the entire history of the universe, let alone in your own history, there has never been another day just like today, and there will never be another just like it again. Today is the point to which all your yesterdays have been leading since the hour of your birth. It is the point from which all your tomorrows will proceed until the hour of your death. If you were aware of how precious today is, you could hardly live through it. Unless you are aware of how precious it is, you can hardly be said to be living at all. Frederick Buechner

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING Ephesians 4:1-7; 11-16 Dick Smith
GOSPEL READING John 6:24-35

MESSAGE ***“Recalling the Basics”***

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

***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**

**Receive these offerings of your church, O God. Prepare us
to use them wisely, serving our community and our world. May we love all people well in
the way of Christ. Amen.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION “Let Us Break Bread Together”

#330

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanks

WE ARE SENT AND BLESSED

***CLOSING SONG** “And They’ll Know We Are Christian”

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

REFRAIN

And they’ll know we are Christian by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christian by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
And we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride.

REFRAIN

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand-in-hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand-in-hand.
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land.

REFRAIN

***BENEDICTION**