

SPIRIT SUNDAY
THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation
September 8, 2019

10:00 a.m.

WE ARE GATHERED IN

GATHERING MUSIC Music Director Amy Kerckmar

WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

RECEIVING THE LIGHT

CHORAL INTROIT *“For Where Love Is, There Is God”*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Enter in, everyone, this is a new day!

God has made it, and we will live it!

Filled with the Spirit,

we will explore the mysteries.

Filled with compassion,

we will embrace all peoples.

Filled with energy,

we will fix what is broken.

Filled with joy,

we will light up the world!

Enter in, everyone, this is a new day!

It is for singing, for dancing,

for learning and praying.

It is for love.

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

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Holy God, we invite you to enter and come in this morning.
Come into our sanctuary. Make your presence known.
Come into our Sunday school. Fill it with love and laughter.
Come into our students’ lives. Bless their learning.
Come into the lives of our teachers. Bless their loving work.
Come and make this church a place for growing,
For stretching, for serving, for teamwork, and for blessing.
Holy God, we invite you to enter and stay forever! Amen.

YOUNG PEOPLE’S MESSAGE AND MINISTRY

*Team First Church
A visit from Coach Athleticus*

***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.*

WE HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 139:1-18 Linda Smith

O God, you have searched me and known me.
**You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue, O GOD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits

of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light around me become night’,

even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts.

You knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,

when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

MESSAGE

“Being Known”

Rev. Dr. Kate Winters

WE LIVE THE WORD

*HYMN

“The Weaver’s Shuttle Swiftly Flies”

#464

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Today’s version of The Lord’s Prayer
sung by Heidi Bridgeman*

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERING

*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

Make this act of giving, O God, an authentic act of love – love for those in need, love for our mission as a church, and love for giving in the way of Jesus. Bless our offerings and bless our hope to make a difference in the world. Amen.

WE ARE SENT AND BLESSED

*CLOSING HYMN “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” #25

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Come and enjoy
a friendly game of
Wiffle Ball after church!
See details in bulletin.**

