

SPIRIT SUNDAY

The First Church in Belfast

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

September 9, 2018

10:00 a.m.

WE ARE GATHERED IN

*An asterisk * means please stand.*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP *(the congregation's words are in **BOLD** print)*

Spirit of learning, descend upon us now!

Make us hungry for wisdom and thirsty for knowledge!

Sharpen our vision to find the truth at the heart of all things.

Love is the web that holds all being together.

Let us worship the love that is God!

***OPENING HYMN** “The Beckoning Mystery”

tune: KREMSER words: Rev. Dr. Kate Winters, Belfast, ME

We praise you, O God, as you call us to wander,
Through all of the wonders creation displays.
You've granted us daring, our souls your courage bearing,
to seek your living Word till the end of our days.

You've given us hearts that rejoice in our learning,
And in learning, love what is good, what is true.
To wisdom you call us, with beauty you enthrall us,
The purpose of our lives are found in quest of you.

For you are the joy of the skies in the morning,
And you are the depths of the oceans and seas.
The beckoning mystery, transforming space and history,
Transcending all our senses, yet ours to receive.

What else can we do but to reverence and seek you,
O Love, that has burst into worlds to explore?
Your presence invites us, embraces and delights us,
So guide us, Holy One, in your way evermore.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE AND MINISTRY

A Visit from Mr. McGinty

COMMISSIONING OF THE TEACHERS

CHORAL ANTHEM "O God, Who Teaches Us to Live"

*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 THE CHRYSALIS

-silence-

SONG OF GRACE "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" #433

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Andrea Giddings

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 125 (p.707, NCH)

GOSPEL READING Mark 7:24-37

MESSAGE "*Laws of Human Nature*"
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

OFFERING MUSIC

*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 gifts of gratitude, dear God, as we become a faith community that offers welcome and works for justice in our world. Teach us to use our resources wisely and in harmony with your will. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WE ARE SENT AND BLESSED

***CLOSING HYMN** “Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped” #22

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

WELCOME BACK, CHOIR!