

The First Church in Belfast
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

November 12, 2017

10:00 a.m.

WE ARE GATHERED IN

An asterisk * means please stand.

WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

CHORAL ANTHEM

CALL TO WORSHIP

Inspired by Amos 5:24
(the congregation's words are in **BOLD** print)

Let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.

**Let mercy blanket the earth like snow,
and cool the anger of our times.**

Let forgiveness blow through the landscape like wind,
and teach us how to bend and not break like the trees.

**Let compassion enfold the nations like air,
and enable us to breathe love and not hatred.**

Let peace encircle our world like the atmosphere,
that there be war no more!

Let us worship our God!

***OPENING HYMN** "O God of Love, O God of Peace" #571

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE AND MINISTRY

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 HONOR AND REMEMBER

silence

WORDS OF GRACE

A hero is someone who has given his or her life over to
something bigger than oneself.

Joseph Campbell

*SONG OF GRACE “America, the Beautiful”

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed God’s grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING Amos 5:18-24 Martha Ortmann

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 70 (p. 666, NCH)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:1-13

MESSAGE “*What Keeps Your Lamp Burning?*”

WE LIVE THE WORD

*HYMN “Let Justice Flow like Streams” #588

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

***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

We dedicate these gifts to you, O God. Use them to build a community of people who work for something larger than themselves as we reach out to those who suffer here and around the globe. May we become a source of hope for all in the name of Jesus, our Christ. Amen

WE ARE SENT AND BLESSED

***CLOSING HYMN** “They Did Not Build in Vain” #373

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE