

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Video of our worship service can be found at:

<https://www.fupchurch.org/> or
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA1yVuDdFJrhYsmJ0TyI8UA/videos>

PRELUDE

Michael Springer

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Aloha. For those of you who do not know me, my name is Pastor Chris. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, I want to welcome you to First United Protestant Church of Hilo. I am so glad Spirit has led you here and you have decided to join us for worship today. Today's worship service is about releasing our need to hold onto the past and moving toward a future in which God will provide for our every need. Let us begin today's service with our call to worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come today from the places of our kitchens and bedrooms, couches, and temporary offices, and from the viewing of our computers and phones.

All: Wherever we are, we are called into God's presence.

We are young and old, individuals and families, soft-spoken and outspoken, contemporary, and traditional, a multicolored and multicultural people.

All: Whomever we are, we are called into God's presence.

We might be seeking love and joy this hour, compassion and forgiveness, justice and peace, or comfort and hope.

All: Whatever we are seeking, may we find it in God's presence. Let our worship together begin!

PEACE READING

Joanne Pocsidio

Our peace reading for today is an anonymous quote about letting go. The quote says this...

"Sometimes the hardest part of letting go of the past, is coming to terms with the fact that the future you envisioned, will never be. The mind wants to hold on to its fantasies. Even when they are wrong, unhealthy, dangerous, even cruel. To

let go of the past you must let go of a lost future, and live in the here and now...[you must live in] the present.”

SCRIPTURE READING

Joanne Pocsidio

Our Scripture reading for today comes from the Book of Exodus 16:1-15 (NLT), where the Israelites complain about their present circumstances and long for the lives, they once had in Egypt...

¹ Then the whole community of Israel set out from Elim and journeyed into the wilderness of Sin, between Elim and Mount Sinai. They arrived there on the fifteenth day of the second month, one month after leaving the land of Egypt. ² There, too, the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron.

³ “If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt,” they moaned. “There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death.”

⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Look, I’m going to rain down food from heaven for you. Each day the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day. I will test them in this to see whether or not they will follow my instructions. ⁵ On the sixth day they will gather food, and when they prepare it, there will be twice as much as usual.”

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “By evening you will realize it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ In the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaints, which are against him, not against us. What have we done that you should complain about us?” ⁸ Then Moses added, “The Lord will give you meat to eat in the evening and bread to satisfy you in the morning, for he has heard all your complaints against him. What have we done? Yes, your complaints are against the Lord, not against us.”

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Announce this to the entire community of Israel: ‘Present yourselves before the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole community of Israel, they looked out toward the wilderness. There they could see the awesome glory of the Lord in the cloud.

¹¹ Then the Lord said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the Israelites’ complaints. Now tell them, ‘In the evening you will have meat to eat, and in the morning you will have all the bread you want. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³ That evening vast numbers of quail flew in and covered the camp. And the next morning the area around the camp was wet with dew. ¹⁴ When the dew evaporated, a flaky substance as fine as frost blanketed the ground. ¹⁵ The Israelites were puzzled when they saw it. "What is it?" they asked each other. They had no idea what it was. And Moses told them, "It is the food the Lord has given you to eat."

Liturgist: The Word of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Longing for the Future. Not the Past"

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

GIFT OF MUSIC

"Bread for the Journey"

by Brett Hesla (Song owned by Augsburg Fortress)

Solo by Joanne Pocsidio

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Moment of Silence

Prayer of the Day

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.

OFFERTORY

Now is our time of offering. If you have been spiritually nourished by today's worship service, I want to encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting the work and ministry of the church through a tithe or donation. You can now donate through our

Facebook page, through our PayPal site, or by simply writing a check to the church. Let us join in our prayer of dedication.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Generous God, let us be renewed as we remember your goodness. You have made us in your image and placed within us a spark of the Divine. May this spark call us to give back to the world. May the offerings we have shared today create a new reality, grow this church and ministry, and provide relief to someone in need. For this we pray in Jesus name, Amen.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

POSTLUDE

Michael Springer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Due to the health risks COVID-19 presents and the complexities in providing a safe space for people to gather at the church, our in-person public worship services held each Sunday will continue to be suspended until further notice. Starting Sunday October 4, 2020, we will begin having worship on Zoom Sunday mornings at 10:00am.
- When we begin holding worship services on Zoom in October Pastor Chris will need someone to help serve as a "host" each Sunday. The host will be responsible for admitting folks into the worship service, muting, and unmuting participants, keeping background noise in check, and sharing content such as the words to prayers, hymns, or links as needed. This will help keep the worship service running smoothly and allow Pastor Chris to focus on leading the worship service. If you would be interested in learning more about this opportunity, please reach out to Pastor Chris.
- As we head into the new year, we will have 6 vacancies on the church council. I want to encourage you to please consider serving in one of these roles, especially during this important time as the church looks toward revitalization and growth with our new pastor. Many of the council members who are coming off have served multiple terms and need time away from these roles. In the next week or two we will have a list of the vacancies available. If you are interested in serving as a council member please reach out to Pastor Chris or a council member.
- If you would like to meet with Pastor Chris for some pastoral care time, please reach out to him to schedule a time that works for you. A pastoral care meeting will look different to everyone. It might be a time to check-in together, pray

together, discuss an issue your having difficulty with, talk-story, or share news your pastor needs to hear. Pastor Chris is available to meet with you over the phone, through Zoom, FaceTime, Facebook Messenger, or Google Duo. You can email him at revchrisfupc@gmail.com or by phone at 808-935-5914.