

St. Louis Association Fall Meeting

Saturday, September 28, 2019

Immanuel, UCC, Ferguson, MO

Gathering Worship

** Please stand in body or spirit*

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Watson

***Gathering Music** **“I Woke Up This Morning”**

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus. (Repeat 2 times) Allelu, Allelu. Alleluia!

Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus. (Repeat 2 times) Allelu, Allelu. Alleluia!

Working for justice with my mind stayed on Jesus. (Repeat 2 times) Allelu, Allelu. Alleluia!

***Call to Worship**

Rev. James Ross

Beloved friends, we indeed woke up with our minds, bodies and souls stayed on Jesus! In the beauty of this day, we come together as the St. Louis Association!

We are the United Church of Christ in Little Rock, Memphis, Arnold, Bonne Terre, and Chesterfield and all of St. Louis city and county!

Our journey brings us together where the fall season around us may be our teacher for the changes of life that are approaching.

Bold colors, cooler temperatures, and leaves that fall and must be gathered all remind us that God is in our midst.

May we breathe in nature’s wisdom in our own churches and communities as well as all of God’s creation as change transforms us.

We are the United Church of Christ in Arkansas, Memphis, and Missouri! Come, let us worship God!

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 121

Rev. James Ross

Reading of the Christian Scriptures

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Rev. James Ross

Reflection

“Sharing Vital Communion!”

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Watson

Offertory

The offering today will go to the UCC Disaster Relief fund for Hurricane Dorian relief. Please make your check out to the St. Louis Association.

***Doxology** (Please use these words or the words with which you are most comfortable)

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. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Blessing and Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer

Hymn of Wisdom “Wisdom Calls Us to Her Mission” *Tune: Beach Spring; Words: Jann Aldredge-Clanton*

** Please use the pronoun for God’s wisdom that best reflects your awareness of God’s wisdom for us today (Her/His/Their)*

*Wisdom calls us to Her mission, bringing peace to all the earth;
As we follow Wisdom’s guidance, lovely works we bring to birth.
Wisdom gives us deepest blessings, fills our lives with gentleness;
We can join in Wisdom’s actions, showing forth Her righteousness.*

*Wisdom leads on paths of justice, teaching people to be fair;
As we follow Wisdom’s guidance, we will show Her tender care.
Overcoming greed and envy, Wisdom gives us open hearts;
With her Spirit living in us, loving kindness we impart.*

*Holy Wisdom guide us daily on the journey of our lives,
Giving strength for doing justice, speaking truth, and ending strife.
Joined with Wisdom, we will blossom, bearing fruits of love and peace;
With Her pure and gentle spirits, all our gifts we now release.*

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

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Closing Worship

** Please stand in body or spirit*

Installation of Servant Leaders for the St. Louis Association

Greeting:

Leader: Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the Church in heaven and on earth.

People: To God be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations for ever and ever. Amen.

Introduction:

Leader: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Leader: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

People: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Leader: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

Leader: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

People: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Presentation:

Leader: These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of the St. Louis Association, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us to witness to their willingness to serve.

Covenant:

Leader: Siblings in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the Church, whether gathered or scattered.

Leader: Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Individuals: I am.

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Individuals: I do, relying on God's grace.

Leader: Members of the St. Louis Association, you have heard the promises of our siblings in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise in body and spirit and witness to the commitment we now make?

People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Laying On Of Hands:

Pastor: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of the St. Louis Association in Christ's church and equip you with everything good to do God's will.

People: *Amen.*

Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name.

People: *Amen.*

Declaration:

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of the St. Louis Association of the United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce you are installed in your respective positions.

Greeting of Christian Love:

Leader: In accordance with the faith and order of the St. Louis Association, I extend to you the hand of Christian love.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn for Our Journey **“Somos Pueblo Que Camina, We are People on a Journey “**

Somos pueblos que camina
Por la senda de dolor
Acudamos jubilosos
A la santa communion

We are people on a journey
Pain is with us all the way
Joyfully we come together
At the holy feast of God

Los humildes y los pobres
Invitados son de Dios
Acudamos jubilosos
A la santa communion

God has sent the invitation
To the humble and the poor
Joyfully we come together
At the holy feast of God

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel and Jeff Remelius