



CLIFF AVENUE UNITED CHURCH

www.cliffavechurch.com

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Church office hours: 1 – 5 pm Tuesday through Friday

August 23, 2020

We sing of scripture and worship

Gathering Music – “When Life is Good Again”

Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton & Kent Wells - 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEUYlo6OoDY>

“When Life is Good Again” was premiered on May 27, 2020. Dolly Parton was inspired by the Covid-19 quarantine. In her words....“We will come out on the other side of this, and we’re all going to be better people for it. Take care of each other from afar, and continue to send love to your friends, family, and everyone suffering.”

*When life is good again, I'll be a better friend.
A bigger person when life is good again.
More thoughtful than I've been, I'll be so different then.
More in the moment when life is good again.*

*I'll open up my heart and let the whole world in.
I'll try to make amends when life is good again.*

*We've been brought to our knees, we've been so ill at ease.
There are no guarantees but you know life goes on.
This too shall pass away, bring new and different days.
We need to change our ways and right our wrongs.*

*Let's open up our hearts and let the whole world in.
Let's try to make amends when life is good again.*

*I'll open up my doors again and hear the message in the wind.
Repent of all my sins (Hallelujah) when life is good again.*

*I'll try to be someone on which you can depend, a helping hand
to lend.*

*Let's open up our eyes and see what's goin' on,
If we're to move along from where we've been.*

*Let's open up our hearts and let the love shine in (shine in).
We've all got knees to bend and we'll just pray till then.
Ask God's forgiveness when life is good again.*

*And it's gonna be good again (It's gonna be, it's gonna be)
It's gonna be good again, It'll be alright (it'll be alright)*

*God's the reason for all things, you want rainbows, you get
rain.*

*We'll all be forever changed (forever changed).
I'll sell my boat and fly my kite, walk in the park, go out at
night.*

*And hold my loved ones extra tight.
When everything is on the mend, I'll even drink with my old
friends.*

*Sing and play my mandolin.
We'll make it through this long dark night.
Darkness fades when faced with light.
But everything's gonna be alright, when life is good again.*

Call to Worship

These summer months offer us much-needed time for rest and renewal. Let us come to this time of worship with the same desire, to find rest and renewal for our souls. Let us come as the sun shines, as the warm rains fall, as the earth ripens, that we might praise God together.

Opening Prayer and Prayer of Unburdening

Gracious God, who creates, sustains and redeems all life, we come seeking your disturbing presence and comforting peace. We praise you for the joy of being your people. May your Spirit be with us and move within us, in this time of worship. Give us hearts that hear your Word and minds that are open to the transforming power of your love Amen. (*Silence/Light your candle*). God of great abundance, we confess that we do not always use your gifts to the fullest. We hoard them. Or we waste them. Or we abuse them. Forgive us. Restore us. Renew us. Amen

Opening Hymn "Take O Take Me as I Am"

(Words and Music by John Bell – 1995)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGOKRzfK1g8>

Take, O take me as I am;
Summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Scripture Reading Matthew 16:13-20 (*Lucas Athey*)

<https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings>

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one

of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do YOU say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Scripture response: For the Living Word
We sing Praise!

Reflection

Rev. Jen

<https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings>

Musical Reflection "Who Do You Say That I Am?"
Words and Music by Cindy Morgan
~ Performed by David Phelps (2015)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=88&v=BfvQcvKTPIw&feature=emb_logo

Was he a poet turned radical politician, trying to start a revolution?

A preacher on a mission, talkin' 'bout fishing in a new kind of kingdom.

Or a small town wannabe, tired of carpentry, carving out a little fame.

John or Elijah, teacher, Messiah or just someone trying to make a name.

Could the one we know as Mary's son be the long awaited Holy One?

So you're a cynic, oh, well I get it, it's hard to trust what you can't see.

You've been broken, how can you hope in or believe in a mystery.

Oh, you oughta know, gotta know where you stand.

Who do you say that I am? Who do you say that I am?

Two thousand years counting, the question's still mounting, the answer's still a mustard seed.

Science can't prove it, critics accuse it of being a crutch for the weak.

And the leper's still leaping, the blind man seeing is just a nice fairy tale.

Fact or fiction, are we all just wishin' on pennies down in a well.

While you're weary wrestling with the truth,

Could the truth be reaching out to you?

So you're a cynic, oh, well I get it, it's hard to trust what you can't see.

You've been broken, how can you hope in or believe in a mystery.

Oh, you oughta know, gotta know where you stand.

Who do you say that I am? Who do you say that I am?

Though they question if I'm just a man.

Still the answer is who you say that I am.

So you're a cynic, oh, well I get it, it's hard to trust what you can't see.

You've been broken, how can you hope in or believe in a mystery?

All of your questions just keep you guessing when all you want is to be free.

Oh you oughta know, gotta know where you stand.

Who do you say that I am?

Oh you oughta know, gotta know where you stand.

Who do you say that I am?

Who do you say that I am?

Who do you say that I am?

Prayers of the People

<https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings>

The Disciples Prayer (The Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against
us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.

Sending Forth Go into the world prepared to catch a
glimpse of Jesus in your midst, prepared to let others
catch a glimpse of Jesus in you.

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

Closing Hymn "God Will Take Care of You"

Performed by David Phelps (2013)

(Lyrics included in the video.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6k1JQ_VC6E