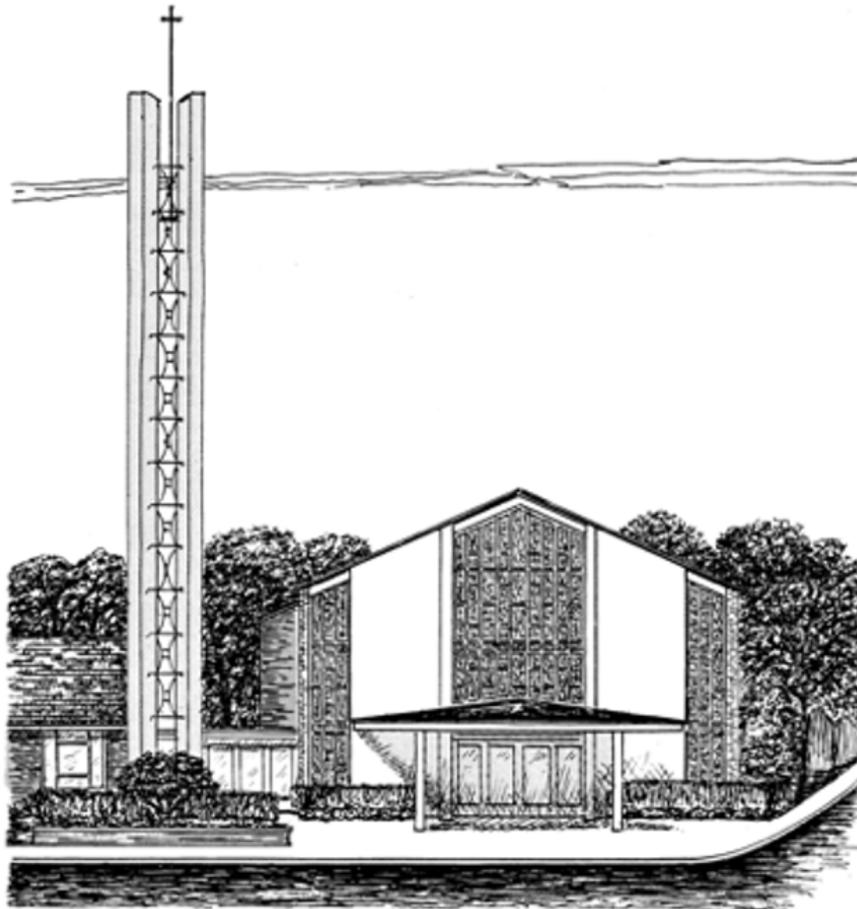


Rockport United Methodist Church

October 11, 2020



R. Jerome Crowley

Rockport United Methodist Church
3301 Wooster Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116

Church Phone: 440-331-9433
Church Email: office@rockportumc.org
Rev. Lorrin Radzik Email: pastor@rockportumc.org
Rev. Lorrin Radzik Phone: 216-264-6044
Website: www.rockportumc.org

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Opening Ourselves to Worship

Prelude & Welcome

Call to Worship (People's response in bold.)

Leader: Praise be to God, who has brought us here this day.

People: Praise and thanks to God for all the blessings we have received.

Leader: What joy we have in God's presence!

People: What peace is brought to us in God's house!

Leader: This is truly the day that the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Beloved, God is with us this day. We come with joy and with sorry. We come having done good and having done harm. Therefore, let us confess our sins against God and neighbor:

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you know we are in the midst of a very confusing political season. The shouts of the partisan communities often deafen us to the needs of those around us. Help us remember that you have called us to service, to ministries of hope and healing. Forgive us when we get so caught up in the chaos that we forget your presence. Give us courage and strength to truly serve you by serving your people. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved of the Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are healed and forgiven. **Beloved of the Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are healed and forgiven.** Together we are called to go forth in compassionate ministry to help others in need. Know that God always goes with us on our journeys into ministry. Be at peace, Amen.

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Open our hearts and our spirits to hear your healing words of peace and love, O God. Help us be the people of service and justice that you have called us to be. Make

us ready to heal rather than harm; to serve rather than sever. Give us hearts of joy and justice, for we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Music for Reflection

The Children's Time to Lead Us

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 22:1-14

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Music for Reflection

Sermon by Video

The Rev. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed Page 881

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Transforming Our Lives & the World

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Time of Silent Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 Generosity

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

O God, creator of all that we have and all that we are, no one can utter all your mighty deeds or declare all your praise. Yet accept these gifts, we pray, both as tools of the work of the gospel and as signs of our pledge to be coworkers in Christ's name. Amen.

Proclamation of Thanksgiving – Psalm 150 – Book of Common Prayer

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple; praise him in the firmament of his power.

People: Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him for his excellent greatness.

Leader: Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; praise him with lyre and harp.

People: Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe.

Leader: Praise him with resounding cymbals; praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

People: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

Benediction

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Special thanks to the Rev. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche for today's sermon. Rev. Whitney is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church USA, and is presently working on her Ph.D. at Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC.

Today's liturgy was adapted from: Prayers of the People Form IV, Book of Common Prayer, & MinistryMatters.com Worship Elements and Worship Connections resources for October 11, 2020. www.ministrymatters.com