



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Juneteenth Sunday Year C

June 19, 2022

Thoughts Before Worship—

Juneteenth commemorates the occasion of some African's, and their descendant's, enslaved in America, learning of their emancipation of a June day in 1865. Juneteenth was proclaimed a federal holiday in 2021 by President Joseph R. Biden. This designation introduced the Juneteenth holiday to a wider American audience, although the holiday has been celebrated for over 150 years among some African Americans.

If you have requests to add to the prayer list (a public document), go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found in the bulletin or there are prayer cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

Gathering Music

Aaron Ames

Welcome

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Call to Worship

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser, Tom Ward

Come, let us draw near to worship God, the great liberator.

Those whom the son sets free are free indeed.

God brought God's people out of bondage in Egypt; Adonai is the great liberator.

Those whom the son sets free are free indeed.

God makes chains shatter and seas part. Barriers to freedom are not of God; they are tools of greed, domination, and evil.

God make us to blossom into your image and likeness. Make us liberators, chain breakers, and makers of peace that all who breath might experience liberty, hope, and justice

Prayer

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

God of compassion, God of love, God of justice, God who makes those taken hostage by life to know liberation, we come. We come to worship with thanksgiving because in you we find freedom and joy. We come to worship with grief that Africans were enslaved in America and were denied dignity and freedom for so long. We come to worship lamenting evils past and present. Make us to be forces of repentance, conciliation, and repair for evils past and present. Make us to be forces for liberation in this time and in time to come. Make us implements of your justice, righteousness, and shalom here and now. We pray this in the strong name of Jesus, our liberating LORD. Amen.

We welcome you to our service this morning. Celebrating the diversity of creation, Community United Church welcomes persons of any age, ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or life condition. May the Divine Presence become real to you through this time of worship. We hope you come back!

Note: Our worship services are live streamed. If you prefer not to have the back of your head seen on the live stream worship please do not sit in the first seven pews on the left side (organ/piano) of the sanctuary.

Note 2: The congregation responds to the liturgy parts in **BOLD**

*Everyone is invited to stand in body or in spirit.

Litany of Prayer for Juneteenth

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Our God, on this Juneteenth commemoration, we remember the Juneteenth reality of being legally freed and yet still enslaved. We acknowledge that we have inherited a legacy of slavery and oppression.

How many ways does that legacy persist with legal protections differing so much from lived experience?

We know we have not arrived at true freedom. We recognize that the journey toward that freedom is long and must be walked with intention. We hope to be one in solidarity with those who still live the horrible realities of that legacy. Whether near or far, we commit to hearing their anguish and their hope.

Teach us to extend our lives beyond ourselves to reach the frontiers where people are still waiting for the news of freedom.

Make us one in solidarity with those suffering in the New Jim Crow of mass incarceration. Make us one in solidarity with the immigrants we discount and treat as less than human. Make us one in solidarity with children whose schools have less resources. Make us one in solidarity as the whole church, black and white, together. May our solidarity be genuine, not dishonest. May our solidarity be effective, not just full of wordy declarations. May our solidarity be grounded in hope and not in the lament of tragedy. May our solidarity be humble, recognizing that true justice is yours alone.

We lift up this prayer and all those prayers shared today in the name of him who resolutely stood in solidarity with the despised, the rejected, and the imprisoned.

We join our voices together and pray the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying,

“Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name....”

***Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Today, you are invited to remain in your space, turn and greet those around you, make eye contact across the room and flash a peace sign, or say “Peace” in the comments on Zoom or Facebook Live broadcast.

Children’s Moment

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Prelude to Scripture

Tom Ward

Whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, let us listen now for the meaning it might hold for us on this day.

Sacred Reading from the Original Testament

Exodus 6:1-9

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh: Indeed, by a mighty hand he will let them go; by a mighty hand he will drive them out of his land.’

²God also spoke to Moses and said to him: ‘I am the LORD. ³I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name “The LORD” I did not make myself known to them. ⁴I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they resided as aliens. ⁵I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶Say therefore to the Israelites, “I am the LORD, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgement. ⁷I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.”’ ⁹Moses told this to the Israelites; but they would not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and their cruel slavery.

Postlude to Scripture

Tom Ward

Together, let us say:

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

Call to Prayer

Tom Ward



After the sermon, we will offer up our joys and concerns. Your prayer requests will be offered aloud. Whether you are sitting here in the sanctuary, or worshipping with us remotely, you are invited to add your joys and concerns to the prayer list: go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found here or there are prayer cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

*Hymn

Community of Christ

NCH 314

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, Music: Hebrew Melody; arr: Meyer Lyon
One License Song #03366, One License #A-734456

Message

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Silent Meditation

Call to Offering

Tom Ward

In a few moments, we will pray. You still have time to enter your prayer concerns into the Google doc, or hand a prayer card to an usher so your prayer concern can be offered up aloud. Before that, though, we turn our attention to the offering. The Confirmands spent a good portion of their year learning what it means to be of service and what each of them has to offer in terms of their own spiritual gifts. What do you have to offer the world in the way of Christ Jesus? What does our church have to offer? We are called to be authentically who we are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, and pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. CUCC's ministries of charity, hospitality, and justice, like Jubilee Café, support of Campus Ministry, and advocacy on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community, are only made possible when our generosity, like God's lavish love, overflows. We give thanks to God for CUCC's generous donation of \$432.20 for Strengthen the Church Fund, which supports leadership development, new churches, and innovation in existing congregations.

To give in support of the ministry of CUCC go to www.community-ucc.org and click "donate". If you are worshipping in the sanctuary, you can also place offerings in the offering plate located at the rear doors.

May God bless the gifts we give, multiply them, and employ them in faithful service. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

*Hymn

We are Marching in the Light of God

NCH 526

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Commissioning of the Community

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Benediction

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Postlude

Aaron Ames

Acknowledgements:

The liturgy today is adapted from the Juneteenth Worship resources from the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC

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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Tom Ward

Greeter: Chase Skye
Usher: Susan Pawlicki

Organist: Aaron Ames **Singers:** Kathy Lee
Audio/Video: Marilou Hinrichs, Sean Walker, Roger Wade

Community United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
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Open

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Director of Music Ministries:

Kathy Lee | music@community-ucc.org

Organist: Aaron Ames, Interim Organist

Office Manager:

Carla Rush | info@community-ucc.org

Your Ministry Team Leaders

Moderator: Erin Ewoldt*

Past Moderator: Elizabeth Shack*

Incoming Moderator: Johnalene Radek*

Clerk: Jeff Radek*

Pastoral Relations Committee: Cara Finnegan

Personnel Committee: Anna Barnes

Community Building:

Peg Wade* and Randy Musser

- **Care Team:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Prayer Shawls:** Elena Kasper

- **Meal Train:** Jennifer Robbennolt

- **Driver's Ministry:** John Osborne (U), Open

- **Healing Music Ministry:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Card Ministry:** Peg Wade

- **Visitor's Ministry:** (Open)

- **Health and Wellness Team:** Doug Irwin

- **Hospitality Team:** Randy Musser and Peg Wade*

Children & Family: Julie McClure* and Alison Anders

Finance: Roger Wade* (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary)

Identity: Keri Evans* and Ramona Oswald

Mission: Jeanne Ward* and Kristy Brownfield

Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP):

(Open) and (Open)

- **Buildings & Grounds:** Tom Ward and Matthew Hart

- **Contracts & Insurance:** Andrew McClure

UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola*

Worship: Susan Pawlicki* and Tina Cowsert

- **Sound Coordinator:** Roger Wade

*denotes Church Life Board Member

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

Director of Campus Ministry: Reverend Nate Brantingham | nate@ucccampusministry.org
www.community-ucc.org/campus-ministry

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