

Seeking to love all people ... growing in faith ...
working toward God's vision of justice, healing and joy.

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming/Creation Justice Congregation

Worship Celebration

September 25, 2022 –10:00 a.m.

Prelude *Bist Du Bei Mir (Be Near to Me)* J.S. Bach

Welcome and Call to Worship (adapted, William F. Schultz)

One: *Come into this place of peace;*

All: and let it heal your spirit.

One: *Come into this place of community;*

All: and let it renew your soul.

One: *Come into this place of prophecy and power;*

All: and let it change your heart.

***Hymn** #7 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

Time of Confession

Holy One, we gather here as grateful people. We are thankful for all You have blessed us with, including the beauty and wonder of this world. But it is also a complex and complicated world, one which often leaves us grasping for answers and certainty. Sometimes though, that grasping leads us away from You and Your call for our lives. It leaves us willing to be satisfied with too easy answers and shallow judgments about issues and other people, especially those different from us, or who differ with us.

Forgive us for this, and help us to resist the urge to be too quick in our certainty and judgments. Help us to ask more questions. Help us to seek to understand as much as be understood. Help us to draw conclusions in good faith, recognizing we cannot know all there is to know about any issue or person.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Moment for the Young at Heart

Time of Reflection and Prayer with Our Lord's Prayer (please use the wording closest to your heart)

Invitation to Giving

Offertory Music *Fantasy on Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior* Gilbert M. Martin

***Presentation of Offerings and Congregational Response** #464 (verse 2)

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love;

Take my feet and let them be, swift and beautiful for thee.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious, loving God, You call us to help and support each other. You call us to inspire and encourage those within and outside these walls. May these gifts be one way we answer that call. And may those served by them know Your guiding, healing, uplifting presence in their lives.

Amen.

Ministry of the Word

Introduction of the Text and Reading of the Scripture

Matthew 22:34-46

Message Dr. Mark Boyea

***Hymn** #356 *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

***Blessing**

Postlude *O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

(feel free to leave but please do so quietly so others may enjoy the Postlude)

***All who are able are invited to stand**

Sentence Sermons

"It is not the answer that enlightens but the question."- Eugene Ionescu

"You force people to stop asking questions, and before you know it they have auctioned off the question mark, or sold it for scrap. No boldness. No good ideas for fixing what's broken."
- Barbara Kingsolver

"Be curious, not judgmental."- Walt Whitman