

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
May 21, 2023 10:00 a.m.*

Welcome

Prelude

Allegretto Franceschini
Ruth Christman, oboe & Dr. Mackenzie Albert, piano

Call to Worship

One: This is the day that God has blessed us with;

All: **Let us open our minds, hearts, hands and spirits to God and each other in Worship.**

*Hymn *Arise, Your Light Is Come #167*

Opening Prayer (together)

A Prayer of St. Francis for Today

Holy One, lead us to be instruments of Your ways.

Where there is hatred, let us seek reconciliation.
Where there is injury, let us promote healing.
Where there is discord, let us encourage open, honest dialogue.
Where there is falsehood, let us demand truth.

Where there is doubt, let us provide affirmation and invite further exploration.
Where there is despair, let us offer acknowledgement and hope.
Where there is shadow, let us bring understanding and compassion.
Where there is indifference, let us inspire love.

And in all, let us bring grace.

Holy One, move us to be instruments of Your ways.

Amen.

Music Meditation *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* (improvisation)
Dr. Mackenzie Albert

A Time of Prayer with Our Lord's Prayer (please use the wording most meaningful to you)

Invitation to Giving

Offertory Music

Gavotte
Ruth Christman, oboe & Dr. Mackenzie Albert, piano

Arne

*Presentation of Offering and Congregational Response

(Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated, verse 3, #464)

Take my will and make it thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart, it is thine own
It shall be Your royal throne

*Prayer of Dedication

God of grace and God of glory, we come before You a deeply blessed people in so many ways. May this part of those blessing we return to You now help bring a measure of Your grace to the world. May it help Your people in need know the glory of Your care and compassion in some way.

Amen.

Ministry of the Word

2 Kings 5:19b-27
(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

Message

Dr. Mark Boyea

*Hymn *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy #72*

Community Announcements

Blessing

Postlude

***All who wish are welcome to stand**

For Your Consideration...

"I do not understand the mystery of grace at all – only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us." Anne Lamott, American writer

"Believe the best about people. Pray for their shortcomings. You are not the standard. We all need grace." LeCrae, American rapper, singer and songwriter