

RUTHERFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

251 Union Ave, Rutherford, NJ 07070

(201) 438-6324

www.rccucc.com

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 18, 2016, 10:30 A.M.

For those of you unfamiliar with our worship service, please note:

- We invite your active participation in word or song where noted in **bold type**.
- Please stand in body or spirit at the *.
- The sanctuary is equipped for us to provide you with **hearing-assist devices** if they would be helpful during our worship celebration. Please see Fred Dammers, seated at the soundboard located in the left rear corner of the sanctuary, for assistance.
- **'Check-in' on Facebook** and let everyone know you are here at worship!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"I Will Never Part From God"

M. Dupre'

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Though our hearts may be grieving, we come risking joy:

All: God is our balm.

One: Though we weep over woes of the day, we are here seeking hope:

All: God soothes our discomfort.

One: Though our lives are often difficult, we gather for strength:

All: God restores our souls and cares for us;

God calms our anguish and dries our tears.

Let us call on the Holy One, and rejoice in God,

ever our source of solace in our daily journey,

ever our comforter in times of trial

Amen.

* INVOCATION

God of our hearts,

you are our Physician in times of hurt;

your balm heals our wounds.

You hear our prayers, intercessions and supplications.

Your presence is pleasing to us and we welcome you.

Together in your sanctuary

we rejoice in your embrace

and offer you our boundless praise Amen.

* OPENING HYMN

#305 - You Servants of God

Hanover

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Sometimes God we take ourselves so seriously
– our opinions, our emotions, our needs, our entitlements –
that we fail to notice our effect on others.
And we do not make connections between our limitless wants
and the resources left for others.
We do this without knowing it.
Bring our awareness to Justice for all
– to the common good, to your universality of blessings.
Remind us you love all.**

Silent confession.....

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* WE SING IN RESPONSE

(#759) - *Gloria Patri*

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

* WE OFFER EACH OTHER THE SIGN OF PEACE

* WE SING OUR SONG OF PEACE

Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

Fred Dammers, Guitar

*Make me a channel of your peace, where there is hatred let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord; and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Make me a channel of your peace, where there's despair in life let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness only light, and where there's sadness ever joy.
O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.
Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG FOLK

WE READ FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 8:19 - 9:1 (NRSV)

19 Hark, the cry of my poor people
from far and wide in the land:
"Is the Lord not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
with their foreign idols?")

20 "The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved."

21 For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

22 Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?

1 O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!

SERMON

Rev. Ronald E. Verblauw

* HYMN OF RESPONSE #518 - Father Almighty, Bless Us

Integer Vitae

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer

All this we pray in the name of, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying:

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 sins, as we forgive those that sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen.

OFFERTORY

Invitation

There is a Balm in Gilead
Emanuel J. Meli, Tenor & Christopher Sahar, Piano

arr. Harry Burleigh

* Response

Old Hundredth

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;**

**Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

* Dedicatory Prayer

God, as your church we reflect your hopes for humanity. We offer these gifts and ask you to guide us to shrewd and loving management of all we are given in order to further your work in our midst.

* CLOSING HYMN #456 - More Love to You, O Christ *More Love to You*

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Improvisation on *There is a Balm in Gilead*" C. Sahar

The following resources were used in preparing this morning's liturgy:

Prayerful Living: Service Prayers for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost was written by The Rev. Catherine Rolling.

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