



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**WORSHIP @ HOME**

[www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome](http://www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome)

*Kinship in Christ*

August 1, 2021

## **Prelude**

**We are Called to Worship**—Sisters and Brothers in Christ, sink the roots of your faith deep. Drink up the blessings of the Spirit. Ground yourself in the love of God so that Christ may dwell in your hearts. Let us worship our God!

## **Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

*You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.*

**A Time of Prayer**—Generous God, you give us what we need and satisfy our desires in due season. Grant that our inner beings may be strengthened through your Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, that you may accomplish within us far more than all we ask or can imagine.=

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison)—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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **We Hear God's Word**

*Ephesians 3:14-21 (NRSV)*

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power

to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,<sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Meditation

*Kinship in Christ*

## We Gather at the Table



**Set Your Place at the Table**—Communion was first celebrated in the homes of those in the early church. Friends and family would gather together to pray, singing songs, and break bread. We carry on that tradition today. Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So, gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

**Our Invitation**—At this table of grace we get a glimpse of what is the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ’s love for us. Here the cup flows freely, the feast is generous, and there’s a place for you.

**The Words of Institution**—On the night when Jesus was to be betrayed, he gathered with his friends in that upper room to celebrate the Passover meal, a meal of remembrance of the liberation of God’s people from slavery in Egypt, a journey that would lead them deep into the wilderness. After the meal was over, Jesus took the bread that was left, broke it, blessed it, and said, “Take and eat, this is my body broken for you.” In the same way, he took the cup, the fruit of the vine, and pouring it out he said, “This is the cup of the new covenant, my blood shed for you and the forgiveness of sins. As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, remember me.” Today, we remember Christ’s body broken for us and blood shed for us as bread is transformed into mercy and wine into compassion. As we prepare to receive this holy meal, let us ready our hearts by confessing our sins to God. Let us pray.

**Our Confession**—Have mercy, God of every generation. Pour out the rich blessing of forgiveness on our parched souls. Feed us with Heaven's Bread, so we might be nourished by your gentleness. Shape us as your people, and restore us to faithful living, as we seek to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in service to everyone we meet.`

**Assurance of Grace**—The wideness of God's mercy, the range of God's forgiveness, the infinite love of God, the Heart of hope which is never empty: all these gifts are ours, as God restores us to the fullness of life meant for us. Grounded in love, rooted in discipleship, we offer ourselves in service to others, recognizing the limitless grace which is ours to share in Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.`

**Blessing Our Meal**—God of mercy and grace, we pray that in gathering at your table our inner being might be strengthened with the power of our Spirit. We ask that you flow through this cup and this bread that they might be the nutrients our spirits crave so that we might sink our roots deeper and deeper into your love. Bless this meal and all who partake, in Christ's name we pray, Amen.

**We Share the Bread and the Cup** – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you.” Take and eat. As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.” Take and drink.

**We Give Thanks**—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.+

## **We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation**—Let us take the abundant blessings that God has given to us and return a generous portion to God, certain that God can accomplish far more than we could ever imagine.

**August Benevolence**—“...for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...” This month we are once again supporting God’s Bounty Food Pantry. God’s Bounty works with our neighbors who are facing food insecurity, providing them with staples they need to feed their families. God’s Bounty is a joint ministry of the Franklin Township Ministerial Association.

**Back to School Drive**—We lift up today, too, your generosity in gathering school supplies for Megan’s classroom. Her students come from all over the world, and some come from families of refugees, who traveled far to seek safety in this land. We hope that these simple tokens of our love might be a sign of welcome and care to our neighbors.

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at [www.zionuccindy.net/donate](http://www.zionuccindy.net/donate)

## **Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**—God, bless these gifts that we bring to you today—the gifts of our resources, of our time and talent, and of school supplies. We entrust these gifts to you that you might work through them to accomplish far more than we could ever imagine and that they might be used to bring glory to you. Amen.

## **Hymn**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, 71*

**We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing**—Now to God, our Creator; Jesus Christ, our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, our sustainer, who is able to do far more than we could ever dream of according to the power that works in us; be glory in the church from now to the end of the age. Amen.`

## **Postlude**

`UMC Worship Planning Resources. = Long, Kim. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2: Trinity Sunday through Reign of Christ (p. 98). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition. +UCC Book of Worship.