

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT MCFARLAND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

October 24, 2021 ✠ Sunday Morning Worship

**Indicates please rise, in body or spirit.*

OPENING WORDS OF WELCOME

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! McFarland UCC is Open and Affirming to people of all ages, races, physical and mental abilities, economic positions, religious backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities. We celebrate and share God's unconditional love by offering the opportunity for membership, fellowship and leadership to everyone.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: As the Scriptures say, "I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of God."

Many: We are glad and grateful to be back in this house of God together.

One: All of Creation is Sacred, and God's Spirit is everywhere. Whether we worship outside, inside, or virtually, God is with us and among us within us. We are united in the Spirit and connected in ways that we can not see with human eyes, but we can feel them with our human hearts if we are open. For those of us here physically in this sanctuary today, it is good to see this sacred space once again with our eyes, and to be present for worship both in and beyond this physical place.

Many: We are glad to be together in this sanctuary, and in sacred virtual space as well.

One: Today we celebrate taking a significant step away from one of this pandemic's most difficult restrictions, and back toward being able to be together inside our beloved church sanctuary. We feel some of the restrictions and limitations, but we also celebrate the progress that this day represents.

All: We will make the best of this leg of the journey through the pandemic, as we have made the best of every step of this journey so far. We will gladly embrace new ways of being together and worshiping God. We give thanks for God's presence here and now, and we praise God for blessing us always and everywhere. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Morning Has Broken”

*Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world
Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass*

*Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass
Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day*

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

A TIME FOR PRAYER & THE PRAYER OF JESUS

(Traditional and Parker Palmer Version)

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.

HYMN

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” (vs. 1-3) #292 NCH

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will,
to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
stir in me one desire:
That every earthly part of me
may glow with holy fire.*

A MESSAGE THROUGH SCRIPTURE AND SPOKEN WORD

***CLOSING SONG**

“We Are One In The Spirit”

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
And they'll know we are Christians by our love*

*We will work with each other we will work side by side
We will work with each other we will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
And they'll know we are Christians by our love*

*We will walk with each other we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other we will walk hand in hand*

*And together we'll spread the news that God is in this land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
And they'll know we are Christians by our love*