

The First Church in Belfast  
United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Congregation

July 8, 2018  
10:00 a.m.

*WE ARE GATHERED IN*

**WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**PRELUDE**

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Gather in, all people –  
**there are stories to be told,**  
love to be shared,  
**and wisdom to unfold!**

Gather in, all people –  
**We have songs to sing,**  
prayers to raise,  
**and hope to bring!**

Gather in, all people –  
**there's a spirit to be caught,**  
peace to be made,  
**and justice to be sought.**

Gather in, dear children of God –  
**to remember whose we are,**  
and what we're about,  
**to rise once again**  
as the body of Christ in the world!

**Let us worship!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** “The Heart of This Family”

tune: THE ASH GROVE words: Rev. Kate Winters for Lucille Paul, 2012

The heart of this family is joy and compassion,  
we're bonded in love by a God who is grace.  
All here are our mother, our father, our brother,  
our beloved sister, the whole human race.  
We cherish the stories, the pains and the glories,  
of all gone before who have answered the call,  
to be Christ among us, to live Christ within us,  
and shine Christ around us, a blessing to all.  
The core of this family is service and welcome,

we reach out our hands to all neighbors and friends.  
But surely the stranger, the lost one in danger,  
the suffering, the lonely, our hearts will attend.  
Upheld on the shoulders of faithful dear elders  
who've modeled the fashion to live in our day.  
With minds held wide open, and spirits unbroken,  
and hearts filled with love to be given away.

The soul of this family is faith that reminds us  
that God is at work in this place, in this time.  
When all come together, the body is gathered,  
the presence of the Sacred is real and sublime.  
As kindness lives among us, and laughter swells around us,  
the Spirit takes to dancing in this very air.  
The saints are now greeting, the beloved are meeting,  
the incarnate Christ is the face that we wear.

### **\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

**-silence-**

**SONG OF GRACE** "We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness" #179

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S CIRCLE**

### **GREETING OF PEACE**

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (2X)*  
*Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.*  
*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

### ***WE HEAR THE WORD***

**FIRST READING** James 1:17 Kenn Ortmann

**GOSPEL READING** Mark 6:1-13

**MESSAGE** "*No Shadow of Doubt*" Rev. Dr. Marc Stewart

### ***WE LIVE THE WORD***

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

***The Lord's Prayer***  
*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.*

### **INVITATION TO GIVE**

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, one.

*(Note: The First Church honors the diverse languages of faith. Please sing with words that are meaningful to you. Other versions of the Doxology are found in our hymnal, #776-781.)*

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Receive these offerings of your church, O God. With the help of the Holy Spirit may we use them with generosity and wisdom. Increase our joy as we do your will and love each other well in the way of Christ. Amen.**

### ***WE ARE SENT AND BLESSED***

**\*CLOSING HYMN**“God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian” #355

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**