

***Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Just like Peter, Lord, we want to get all “legalistic” about forgiveness. We want to know if one time to forgive someone is sufficient. We might even be willing to extend forgiveness twice, but we have a tendency to follow the adage, “Once burned, twice shy.” Teach us to be humble and merciful. Remind us of the many ways in which you have offered, time and time again, your forgiving love to us. Heal our wounds and bind up our brokenness. For we ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Silent Personal Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the name of Jesus Christ, each one of us has received healing mercies. We are now given opportunities to offer forgiveness and redemption to one another.

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with us all! Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

SERMON *One of You Is the Messiah*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

***I believe in an innovative God,
who does not wait for us to find ourselves
but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.***

***I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative,
that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power
to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.***

***I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us,
calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty
and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.***

***I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people,
called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations
as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future.***

***Because Christ has called me, in this I truly believe.
Amen.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.***

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Offertory: Iberian Nocturne by: C. Rollin

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN Dear Lord and Father of Mankind by: J. G. Whittier & F. C. Maker
(You may use: Dear Lord, Creator, Good and Kind)

***Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.***

***In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.***

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!**

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Thy Temple I Repair

by: L. Lene

Today's written prayers are by Nancy C. Townley for the *ministrymatters.com* website. The *Affirmation of Faith*, entitled *This We Believe* is by the late Rev. Bruce Prewer of the Uniting Church of Australia.

Tatiana Akhounzianova is the church organist and pianist for these services.

Prayer Concerns

Bill Richter^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]} Nina (Tatiana's Mother)^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]} Kristin & Karin & Steve (Joyce Koenig)
George Armenti III^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]} Ann Ventura (Toni Hopcraft)^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]} B.J. Cardinali^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]} Robin
Schmidt^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]} Art Fletcher^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]} Jennifer Moore (Veronica Moore) Bill Hurlock (Joyce
Koenig), Phyllis Clemson, Justin Byrnes (Tom Parziale) Bryan Hague^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]} Al
Wermuth (Paul & Sue Wermuth) Vicky Sama (Joanne Sama)^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]} Marge
McKeever (Brooke and David Parziale) Sheryl Griefe, Jean Marie Dowling
(Lore & Rich Pateman) Dorothy Malfatone (Carolyn Malfatone).

Deaths

Frank Cirone (brother-in-law of Tony Sarao)

Anniversaries

Janet & Tom Parziale – 15-Sept.^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]} Trevor & Nancy Dalin-Peters – 16-Sept.; Jeff
& Lynn Blakeslee – 17-Sept.