

Compassion! Serenity!
Joy! Caring!
Authenticity!
Extravagance!
Faithfulness! Healing!
Creativity!
Rest! peace!
Gratitude!
Encouragement!
Enthusiasm!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
129 MILLER AVENUE - PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801
June 24, 2018



Prelude & Lighting of the Candles

THE RHYTHM CALLS US TO WORSHIP

L: In the beginning was God, and God begat the rhythm of creation, and the rhythm begat everything else, and the dance began.

P: As the rhythm sounds, creation happens.

L: We are a diverse people bound together through sacred sound.

P: As rhythm sounds, communion happens.

L: Our faith leads us to a world reverberating like a thousand different thunders.

P: As rhythm sounds, work and play become one.

L: We are part of a rhythmic universe as we listen to one another.

P: As rhythm sounds, oppression ceases.

L: We are all companions of life's rhythms in our stillness and motion; in the sound and silence, our souls are uplifted.

P: As rhythm sounds, we come together in shared ministry.

L: God draws from us the rhythms of our hearts, and we respond, adding our gifts to the dance of all creation:

P: One person's spontaneous voice:

Extravagance! Compassion! Faithfulness! Authenticity!
Serenity! Encouragement! Creativity! Rest! Gratitude!
Caring! Healing! Enthusiasm! Peace! Joy!

The Creator blends our varied rhythms into a new pattern, a new-again song that is as old as rhythm itself.

As rhythm sounds, we find ourselves and find each other, in the dance of God's grace.

GREETING AND PRAYER

The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We come together to praise God, to hear the Holy Word, and to seek for ourselves and others the power, presence, and direction of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray:

Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit you gave to your apostles many excellent gifts. Give your grace to all servants of your church, that we may with diligence and faithfulness fulfill our various ministries. Grant that we your people may follow where you lead, perfect our ministries, and live in joyful obedience to your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*Hymn "Every Praise" by Hezekiah Walker

*Prayer of Confession and Pardon

You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. 5 You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused. You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty. I closed them, for I did not wait to see. You asked for my life, that you might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved. Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you – only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. God, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.

Time for the Children

Special Music

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Hymn

We Are God's People

#2220

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings to God

*Doxology

*Offering Dedication Prayer:

You but open your hand, O Lord, and all of our needs are met. This beautiful and bountiful earth provides for our physical and esthetic needs. Your church helps meet our spiritual needs and offers us opportunities for learning your Word, experiencing meaningful fellowship and serving in a variety of ways in Christ's name. We praise you for the privilege of giving because it is in sharing our gifts that we find worth and joy. Accept, therefore, our offerings as we express our gratitude for all that we are and all that we have. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:11-13

The Morning Message:

*Hymn

We are One in the Spirit

#2223

Closing Benediction - Won Park

When someone needs a blessing, let us be a blessing. When someone needs a shoulder, let us be a shoulder. When someone feels distant and alone, help us show that we are woven, connected. When we need a tie that binds, let us be the tie that binds! As we go forth into this day, let us weave sunshine in all that we do. When we consider the earth and all its inhabitants, let us be the hope of tomorrow.