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October 28, 2012
Meditation
“IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN JOINING A CHURCH YOU LEAVE HOME AND HOME TOWN TO JOIN A LARGER WORLD. THE WHOLE WORLD IS YOUR NEW NEIGHBORHOOD AND ALL WHO Dwell THEREIN – BLACK, WHITE, YELLOW, RED, STUFFED AND STARVING, SMART AND STUPID, MIGHTY AND LOWLY, CRIMINAL AND SELF-RESPECTING, AMERICAN OR RUSSIAN – ALL BECOME YOUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE NEW FAMILY FORMED IN JESUS. BY JOINING A CHURCH YOU DECLARE YOUR INDIVIDUALITY IN THE MOST RADICAL WAY IN ORDER TO AFFIRM COMMUNITY ON THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SCALE.”

William Sloane Coffin, from Credo (pages 142-143)

Prelude
Marge Adler

Worship Ways
A look at Christian worship in Zambia

Welcome
If you are visiting with us for the first time, welcome. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card. They are located on the table by the sanctuary door and in your visitor's packet. Then you may place it in the plate at the time the offering is received.

Call to Worship
One: From the depths of my soul I hear your gentle voice inviting me once again to give away your love.
ALL: “Do not leave anyone without love. Do not forget anyone. Give from what you have received

One: Dare to do as I did. Rejoice in my peace. Rejoice as you serve. Never doubt in stretching out your hands in blessing as you give and receive.
ALL: Serve without restrictions, without judging for whom. Forget your prejudices, fears and trust my voice inside you.

One: When you give in truth what I have placed in you, you will receive a double portion of Shalom.
ALL: From the depths of my soul I hear your gentle voice inviting me once again to give away your love. Come let us worship God.

Invocation
ALL: Come, Spirit of God, fall upon me. For I have lost the riches of my faith and in my poverty, I hunger to hear good news. For I am captive to my pain and sadness and from this prison, I long for release. For I have shut my eyes to the despair of the world and in my blindness, yearn to recover your vision. For I am oppressed by obligations and skewed priorities and my soul aches for freedom. I ask for courage to stand and proclaim God’s favor pouring out abundant life. Justice and peace, truth and mercy fulfilled in all creation as promised in scripture. Come, Spirit of God, fall upon me.

Passing the Peace

Song of Praise
Masithi NCH #760

A Reading from the Gospel of

Reflections
Ann Nichols
Song of Reflection
NCH #

Call to Offering
Our offerings are to express our deep sense of thanksgiving. They are also an expression of empathy and concern for sisters and brothers who struggle to find life. Giving reorients our lives to what is of lasting value and importance. Let us give as we are able – with joy!

DOXOLOGY
Praise God the Source of life and birth.
Praise God the Word, who came to earth
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.
All glory, honor to God’s name. Amen.

Preface & Thanksgiving
One: Loving and gracious God, we know that you, not we, prescribe the way of life that is rich and full and free. Help us through this meal to embrace the best we know. Open our thoughts and feelings so we may learn better ways of life. We come to you knowing that your grace and mercy exceed our wildest imagining and for that with one voice, we honor you saying:
All: Holy, Holy, Holy….

Words of Institution
One: God, may this bread connect us more closely with you.
All: Bless this bread, we pray.
One: May this fruit of the vine remind us of our call to discipleship.
All: Bless this cup, we pray.
One: May this simple meal bring us into union with you, your people and your world.

Table Prayer
All: Amazing God, your claims on us are as old as creation and as new as this very moment. Help us to hear you calling us, not alone that we may be healed, but that we might become instruments of healing in a hurting world. Restore to us that sight that is beyond seeing, so your church may respond with joy to the great high priest, in whose name we pray and carry out our ministry.

Community Prayer
Prayer of Jesus
Our Father/Mother God in heaven, Holy is your Name. May your reign come, Your desire be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive the wrong we have done as we forgive those who’ve done wrong against us. Save us in times of trial and deliver us from evil. For the realm, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.
Invitation

Invitation Hymn
Let Us Break Bread Together   NCH #330

Sharing the Feast of Love

God's Blessing
One: God knows what you are capable of, and encourages the goodness within you to blossom and flourish.
All: We will work for a world that blesses everyone.

One: In the coming week we will ask ourselves: how well is God's vision for a new world revealed in our own lives?
All: We will open ourselves to God's gentle persuasion. We will trust that we, too, have something to offer. We will be consumed by God's love for a world in need of hope, of justice and of peace. Amen.

Song of Response
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'   NCH #526

Postlude
Marge Adler

Ann Nichols
I grew up as a seeker in a family who didn't attend church--so my own spiritual development was influenced by many traditions.

When I married into a family with a strong involvement with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), that became my faith home.

I taught at Arizona State University School of Social Work for 39 years.

My international experience began with the Peace Corps and has included short and long-term service through the YWCA, American Friends Service Committee, and Global Ministries in Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Colombia, Singapore, Uganda, and Zambia. My time in Zambia was two years, 2010 and 2011, as a Long-Term Mission Volunteer with Global Ministries teaching social work and community development.

The Call to Worship was modified from the Writings of Patricia Gómez, of Iglesia Pentecostal de Chile

The invocation was modified from the writings of Elena Huegel

Other portions of the service were Created through inspiration from
The United Church of Christ Global Ministries website
And Led By Love