



Celebrate with us!

**OUR CORE
VALUES**



June 2, 2019

Welcome to our celebration of being an Open and Affirming congregation for 20 years.

Welcome

Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

The story of the journey of our congregation's momentous vote in June 1999 took many turns. Many people planted seeds, others watered, some worked behind the scenes and others waved the banner high. Everyone believed the future was open and trusted that God's newest movement in the midst of history was a work of love and full acceptance of all LGBT persons.

Today we celebrate this great work and our core value of inclusion. May our celebration energize us for the work still ahead for God is still speaking.



The Gathering of Spirits With Song

No Matter Who!

by Roger Miller

No matter who, no matter what

No matter where you are on the journey of life.

You're welcome, welcome here in this place.

No matter who, no matter what

No matter where you are on the journey of life

Accepted, welcomed by God's grace.

1. For we are family, meant to be
Purposed for eternity
Born in love, from above; God's community

Chorus

2. And in diversity, unity,
Harmony for all to see
Justice and equality; God's community.

Chorus

3. Together we will sing, worship bring
Hands and hearts outstretched to all
Jesus praise, hearts a-blaze; listen to God's call.

Chorus

Here All Belong (Tune: 'Here I am Lord')

Truth be told, we're not alone:
we have built ourselves a home;
built it large, and built it free –
love is our goal.



We, a home for anyone,
creed or custom, barring none.
This, a place where love can grow –
here all belong.

Refrain:

***May we find here, what we're seeking.
May we share the strength to carry on.
May the love here do the healing,
lift our hearts, and make us all as one.***

Truth be told, we cannot be
whole without diversity.
many different voices raised
create the song.
Whether brown or black or white,
all together, we are light;
any-gendered, any-loved –
here all belong.

Refrain:

The Feeding of Spirits with a Word about Life

Wisdom Reading

Galatians 3

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Singing Our Faith

Words by Holly Near

We are a gentle, angry people
and we are singing, singing for our lives.

We are a justice-seeking people
and we are singing, singing for our lives.

We are young and old together
and we are singing, singing for our lives.

Being Open and Affirming Our History

Shared by Rev. David Ragan and

Bob Mundy reading letter from Thom Lewis

Singing Our Faith

We are a land of many colors
and we are singing, singing for our lives.

We are gay and straight together
and we are singing, singing for our lives.

We are a gentle, loving people
and we are singing, singing for our lives.

The Feeding of Spirits with a Word about Life

Sacred Reading

John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

Shared by Rev. Ken Heintzleman

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Loving One Another

Shared by Pastor Carson Hawks

Carson Hawks, M.Div, M.Ed is a Member In-Discernment at First Church UCC - Phoenix, where she is in the process of becoming ordained as a minister in the United Church of Christ. She is a spiritual director, teacher, and small group facilitator - leading classes, groups, workshops, and retreats. She works with individuals and groups both in-person and online. Her passion is to help people grow and heal spiritually - especially those who have experienced spiritual abuse and trauma.

Carson studied Trauma and Spiritual Care at San Francisco Theological Seminary. She is a 2017 graduate of the Interfaith Spiritual Direction program at the Chaplaincy Institute in Berkeley, CA. She holds a Master's of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion as well as a Master's in Education from Old Dominion University. Carson leads both creative and spiritual writing groups with certification through Amherst Writers & Artists.



The Sharing of Spirits **Through Our Celebrations and Our Gifts**

This is our time to share the celebrations of our lives; birthdays, anniversaries, words of kindness and works of peace and justice.

Celebration Song

Alellu! Alellu! Everybody sing Allelu
For the Lord has risen it is true,
Everybody sing Alellu!

Now we too can live anew, Alellu, Alellu!
Live in Love need all we do. Alelluia!

Alellu! Alellu! Everybody sing Allelu
For the Lord has risen it is true,
Everybody sing Alellu!

Giving Thanks with Our Offering

Led by Ken Heintzeman

We give these gifts as an act of celebration. And we celebrate our own new life, and the worldwide proclamation of the good news to all people, everywhere.

Offertory

This Is Me!

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

The Feeding and Healing of Our Spirits with the Bread of Life and Cup of Love

“Christian Toleration?” By Sue Brown.

Toleration is often exalted as a virtue.

I am not so sure.

I know I do not yearn to be 'tolerated'.

Did the father barely tolerate the prodigal?

Does our Heavenly Parent merely tolerate us all?

I tolerate, without much thought,

the motorway at dawn, stale air in city streets,
siren and motor horn.

I tolerate an icy wind,

I tolerate the daily grind.

I tolerate the miscellany of pulsating humankind

Do I tolerate my brothers and my sisters?

I know I do not long to be tolerated.

I long to be loved, understood, welcomed.

Ken: The spiritual family of Shadow Rock has the joy, privilege and responsibility to share the table of Jesus. It is a table of inclusion, justice and spirituality. It is a table that for a short time in our gathering together becomes timeless as an expression of the love of God.

Carson: *"If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."*

Ken: If I stand in the middle of the public square and declare to know and practice all moral rules and feel justified in my condemnation of people different from me, but do not have love, I am nothing and I gain nothing for myself or the Kingdom of God.
How will I know if I have love?

Carson: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Ken: Everyone will know love is real not by feeling it but by experiencing it. Love is a concrete act of care and respect shared, given and received with the people we know and the stranger embraced as our neighbor. Love is most real and powerful when it is expressed in the here and now but it touches on the eternal.

Carson: Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

Ken: We think many things are important but only love really matters.

Carson: For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

Ken: Love gives us the strength to endure what is next in history and trust that whatever beauty or horror is next, God's love will have the last Word.

Carson: When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Ken: The God of All who pours out the Spirit of Life and Love to all people sits at this Table of Love and says to you, "I know you, I see you, I welcome you, and I love you!"

Carson: And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Ken: Come to the Table of Love!

Piano Side: Carson Hawks (Bread)

Rev. David Ragan (Cup)

Choir Side: Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons (Bread)

Karen Dritsas (Cup)

Choir: Rev. Dr. Patricia StandTal Clarke (Bread)

Reta Rainwater (Cup)

Communion Offering goes to our ONA Coalition at the national setting of UCC.

Communion Song

God Is Still Speaking

Shared by The Cornerstone Choir

The Parting of Spirits and Loving the World

Words for Mission

One: Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.
As we do, may we embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world...

All: May we live out new ways to be open and affirming!

One: These are the times!

All: We are the people.

One: All Creation is blessed.

All: May we love all and serve all.

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Amen.

All: Amen.



Chorus

**We are the family and we are the home,
We are the mountain where love can be known.
We are the voices and we are the hands
For bringing peace to our land.**

(Repeat)

1. And in our family all are welcome,
Doesn't matter who you are,
In our home there's always room
So plan to stay.
On our mountain where we labor
There's much work that's left to do,
And your talents would be helpful if you stay.

Chorus

2. And in our family ev'ry nation,
Ev'ry planet, ev'ry race,
Ev'ryone is always welcome to our home.
And with our voices let us tell you
That we mean just what we say,
And with our hands united, let us pray.

Chorus

"This Is Me"

(from "The Greatest Showman" soundtrack)

I'm not a stranger to the dark
Hide away, they say
'Cause we don't want your broken parts
I've learned to be ashamed of all my scars
Run away, they say
No one will love you as you are

But I won't let them break me down to dust
I know that there's a place for us
For we are glorious

When the sharpest words wanna cut me down
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out
I am brave, I am bruised
I am who I'm meant to be, this is me
Look out 'cause here I come
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum
I'm not scared to be seen
I make no apologies, this is me

Another round of bullets hits my skin
Well, fire away 'cause today, I won't let the shame sink in
We are bursting through the barricades
And reaching for the sun (we are warriors)
Yeah, that's what we've become

Won't let them break me down to dust
I know that there's a place for us
For we are glorious

When the sharpest words wanna cut me down
Gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out
I am brave, I am bruised
I am who I'm meant to be, this is me
Look out 'cause here I come
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum
I'm not scared to be seen
I make no apologies, this is me

...This is me

And I know that I deserve your love
There's nothing I'm not worthy of
When the sharpest words wanna cut me down
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out
This is brave, this is bruised
This is who I'm meant to be, this is me

Look out 'cause here I come (look out 'cause here I come)
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum (marching on, marching,
marching on)
I'm not scared to be seen
I make no apologies, this is me

(Whenever the words wanna cut me down
I'll send the flood to drown them out)
I'm gonna send the flood, gonna drown them out
This is me!

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John Willis, Bass Guitar

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