

Congregational responses are in bold type.

A TIME OF WELCOME & PREPARATION

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

PRAISE

Call to Worship

Let us gather this day for worship as a nation that is truly blessed by God.

Many fine people have given their lives that we might be free. And many have defended liberty and justice for all around the world.

Yet if we are to remain free

we must be willing to protect liberty.

And, if we are to remain free, we must be true to the Lord our God. Let us pray:

O God, our Almighty Defender and Shield, we lift our voices in praise to You for the many blessings You have so freely given to us. Use our nation in Your mighty kingdom. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Solo *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*

Litany for Independence Sunday

Jesus, source of light and hope.

Free our hearts.

Jesus, teacher of seeking hearts.

Free our hearts.

Jesus, healer of body and soul.

Free our hearts.

Jesus, bringer of mercy and justice.

Free our hearts.

Jesus, release of captives.

Free our hearts.

Jesus, voice against violence.

Free our hearts.

Jesus, courage for the lowly and downtrodden.

Free our hearts.

Jesus, healer of broken bodies, minds and spirits.

Free our hearts.

Jesus, origin of all authority and power.

Free our hearts.

Jesus, freedom of the Spirit.

Free our hearts.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Paul's letter to the Galatians 5:1,13-14; 21-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Morning Message

Rev. Dr. McCarthy

Interlude *Battle Hymn of the Republic*

Morning Prayers

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Ps 33:12
Eternal God, stir our minds and stimulate our hearts with a sense of patriotism as we celebrate Independence Day. May all that it symbolizes renew our faith in freedom, our devotion to democracy,

and redouble our efforts to keep a country of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Grant that we may dedicate ourselves anew to the task of ushering in an era when good will shall live in the hearts of a free people, justice shall be the light to guide their feet, and peace shall be the goal of for all your people.

Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Solo *America, the Beautiful*

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

Benediction Based on 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Go out into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
keep hold of what is good;
never pay back wrong for wrong;
encourage the faint hearted;
support the weak and distressed;
give due honor to everyone;
be always joyful; pray continually;
give thanks for what ever happens;
for this is what God in Christ
wills for you.

And now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. Amen.

Amen.

Postlude

COLUMBIA

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Worship on the Green
Sunday, July 5, 2020