**THE LITURGY OF WORSHIP**

**United Protestant Church (UCC) in Morgan Park**

**November 22, 2020**

**Reign of Christ Sunday, Year A**

**Officiating: Rev. Paul VanAntwerp**

**Pianist: Cathy Dale**

**Organist: Linda Bray**

*\* Please sit or stand as you are comfortable.*

**WELCOME**

**WE GATHER IN PRAISE AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

Prelude: Hymn Sing (*pick your favorite!)*

Words of Welcome

Choral Call to Worship:

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness.*

*Longing for truth, we turn to you.*

*Make us your own, your holy people, light of the world to see.*

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

*(excerpt from “Christ, Be Our Light” c. 1957 Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications)*

Ringing of our Church Bells

Responsive call to worship:

ONE: Our help is in the name of the Lord

who made heaven and earth.

**MANY: We glorify our God with songs of thanksgiving and joy.**

ONE: God has done great things for us, filling us with grace.

**MANY: God fed our ancestors in the wilderness,**

**God clothes us with hope.**

ONE: We will offer our hearts to God,

always saying, 'Thank you!' to the One who loves us.

**MANY: We will sing our praises,**

**shouting of God's presence in our lives.**

**Opening Hymn:** “We Gather Together” #570

**\*Unison Prayer of the People**

**Because we live in this modern, tech-driven, twittering age, we often forget what you have done for us, God of every blessing.  We pat ourselves on the back for our ability to learn new computer skills, but have forgotten that life is more than a machine.  We have more than we could ever use, yet, like squirrels, store up more and more. Our faith is often pushed to the back of the closet, to make room for all the fears we wear so easily.**

**Forgive us, Restorer of life.  As you clothe us with your grace and mercy, may we share with those who have so little.  As our hearts overflow with your love and wonder, may we offer them as gifts to everyone we meet.  As you feed us with your joy and hope, may we welcome to the Table all those who lives are filled with tears and pain.  As we gather with family and friends during this season, may we continue to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Gloria Patri** #576

**A Time for the Young (and Young at Heart):**

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**Scripture:**

God’s Word in the Gospel:  **Matthew 25:31-46**

**Musical Interlude**

**Sermon: “Gratitude”**

**\*Hymn: “Great is Thy Faithfulness ” (#37)**

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**Offering / Mission Moment:**

**\*Doxology** #572

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Ministry Announcements, Joys and Concerns, Testimonies**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer** (we use the word “debts”)

*“Our Father, who art in heaven…..”*

The Gift of Music: Kathy and Linda

**WE LEAVE TO LIVE THE WORD**

**\*Hymn: “Thanks to God for My Redeemer” (#571)**

**\*Unison Benediction:**

***Sent forth by God’s Blessing, our true faith confessing,***

***the people of God from this dwelling take leave.***

***The service is ended, O now be extended***

***the fruits of our worship in all who believe.***

*(excerpt from: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” c.1964 World Library Pub.)*

**\*Postlude**

**We welcome** all friends new and old to our church today. We

invite you to sign our visitor cards in the pews. Please join us downstairs after the service for coffee and treats. We would like to get to know you better.