

**Morning Worship**  
**August 24, 2008**  
**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Coming Together in Christ**

9:55 AM: MEDITATION ("Where Were You When?" by John McCutcheon)

10:00 AM: CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE	<i>Prayer</i>	Leon Boellman
INTROIT	<i>How Can I Keep From Singing?</i> The Courtney Family	Robert Lowry

**Entering God's Presence**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God grace, you have given us minds to know you,  
Women: hearts to love you,  
Men: and voices to sing your praise.  
**All: Fill us with your Spirit that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE #263                      *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*                      "St. Denio"

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

SILENCE

AMEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (together)

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.**

—Book of Common Worship, Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993

KYRIE ELEISON (Congregation & Choir)

#572, The Hymnal

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

THE DECLARATION OF PARDON

\* THE RESPONSE IN PRAISE

#579, The Hymnal

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;  
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Hearing God's Word**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

\* HYMN OF PREPARATION #343

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

Beecher

THE FIRST LESSON:

Romans 12:1-8

pew Bible p. 151

ANTHEM

*Celtic Prayer*  
Jon Courtney

Mark Cabaniss  
arr. John Purifoy

THE SECOND LESSON:

Matthew 16:13-20

pew Bible p. 17

THE SERMON

"Just A Simple Question"

Bob Courtney

## **Our Response to God's Love**

\* THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (together)

1 Corinthians 15

**This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please respond with: "Hear our prayer for Your children")

WORSHIPPING THE LORD THROUGH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY TRIO

*Ave Maria*

Bach-Gounod

Melissa Courtney, Piano; Sean Aurigemma, Cello; Katie Kobert, Flute

\* THE DOXOLOGY

#592, The Hymnal

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER (together)

**Lord, here are our gifts, tithes and offerings and yet they are yours, just as all of creation is yours. Whatever we offer let it be acceptable to You. Help us in our offering to give with grateful and obedient hearts, with our attitude blessing our offering. Teach us to be good stewards of all that we have and are, so that the world will see Your Light in our individual lives and in the life of our church within this community. Open our eyes and ears to the needs of others, within our families, our church, our neighbors, our community, our country, and the world. And give us the courage to act, to share, to listen, to advocate, to empathize, to love in addition to sharing our monetary gifts for Your work within our church and the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, the greatest Gift. Amen.**

\* THE HYMN OF PARTING #442

*The Church's One Foundation*

"Aurelia"

\* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

(Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.)

\* SUNG BENEDICTION

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Dennis

(Please join hands as we sing the Benediction)

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

## **Going Forth in God's Love**

\* THE POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Aurelia"

---

\* Those who wish to do so are invited to stand

## Statement of Purpose

Our Church exists to worship God and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Spirit, we shall serve God's Kingdom by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

## Statement of Vision

We embrace open and progressive theology. Through education, training, worship and Session leadership we will realize our vision both individually and in community. We will be open to new ideas and programs while staying true to our beliefs and traditions. We will commit our personal and corporate resources to embody our Statement of Purpose. We will live our lives responsibly with honesty and integrity.

## What's Happening This Week:



- SUNDAY, AUGUST (24)**  
10:00 AM Worship Service, 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Bob Courtney, Guest Preacher, On the Air WCBC
- MONDAY, AUGUST (25)**  
9:00 AM Church Office Open
- TUESDAY, AUGUST (26)**  
9:00 AM Church Office Open  
6:00 PM Learning Tree Open House  
7:00 PM Mission Committee Meeting
- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST (27)**  
8:30 AM Learning Tree Parent/Teacher Conferences  
9:00 AM Church Office Open
- THURSDAY, AUGUST (28)**  
8:30 AM Learning Tree Parent/Teacher Conferences  
9:00 AM Church Office Open
- FRIDAY, AUGUST (29)**  
9:00 AM Church Office Open
- SUNDAY, AUGUST (31)**  
10:00 AM Worship Service, 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Rev. Scott Blythe, Guest Preacher, On the Air WCBC