

One: Oh, Holy One your love indeed endures forever. We pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit this day as we worship together in beloved community, the realm of your Love. Be with us in our singing and praising as we share the Word together in Jesus' Name. Amen

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: As we gather in worship, let us take this moment to consider our needs for transformation and forgiveness. I invite you to quietly reflect on our need for grace.

(Allow a short moment of silence.)

All: Dear God, the creator of all things based on love. You created us in your image of love and there have been times we have fallen short of that love, not only to you but to each other and all of creation. I ask for your forgiveness and from you, present today, my siblings, sisters and brothers in Christ. I thank you for the comforting strength and compassion of the Holy Spirit to do better in bringing love and grace and all I do. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

(Each person can take this time to surrender to God privately anything weighing heavy on their heart.)

WORDS OF GRACE (2 Corinthians 4:13)

One: "Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and therefore we also speak" in the affirming knowledge that when we turn to God with our shortcomings, we are renewed in God's Love by the grace of Christ. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC **"Simple Gifts" "I Love to Tell the Story"** Hand Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE: Mark 3:20-35

²⁰ Then Jesus went home, and again such a crowd gathered that he and the disciples were unable even to eat a meal. ²¹ When Jesus' relatives heard of this, they went out to take charge of him, thinking that he had lost his mind.

²² The religious scholars who had come down from Jerusalem said of Jesus, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and, "He casts out demons through the ruler of demons."

²³ Summoning them, Jesus spoke in parables: “How can Satan cast out Satan?
²⁴ If a realm is torn by civil strife, it cannot last. ²⁵ If a household is divided according to loyalties, it will not survive. ²⁶ Similarly, if Satan has suffered mutiny in the ranks and is torn by dissension, the Devil is finished and cannot endure. ²⁷ No attacker can enter a stronghold unless the defender is first put under restraint. Only then can the attacker plunder the stronghold.

²⁸ “The truth is, every sin and all the blasphemy the people utter will be forgiven,
²⁹ but those who blaspheme against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness. They are guilty of an eternal sin.” ³⁰ Jesus spoke all this because they said, “He is possessed by an unclean spirit.”

³¹ Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived and sent in a message asking for him. ³² A crowd was sitting around Jesus, and they said to him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.” ³³ Jesus replied, “Who is my mother? Who is my family?” ³⁴ And looking around at everyone there, Jesus said, “This is my family! ³⁵ Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my sister, my brother, my mother.”

REFLECTION

“All in the Family?”

HYMN

"I Am So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me"

#474

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison, using debts)

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Rock-a-My-Soul”

Chancel Choir

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: We are grateful for the gifts that we receive in our lives. We invite you to participate in this opportunity of generosity to continue the mission of God’s Love to the world. We are grateful and thankful.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

DOXOLOGY: *(as collection plates come forward)*

Tune #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

One: O Holy One, with gratefulness we offer and dedicate these gifts for the continuation of our work in Christ's Name. Amen.

HYMN

"In Christ There is No East or West"

#395

PARTING WORDS

One: Dear friends, we have been nourished and renewed this day, go out and share the kin-dom of God to all you encounter in the love of God who created us, God who redeemed us, and God who sustains us. Go in peace, sharing the Good News. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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Kindom: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Pentecost was written by Rev. Roberto Ochoa, the Minister for Ethnic Inclusion, & Congregational Support for Rural and Small Churches for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. He is a member of Mt. Zion Congregational UCC in Cleveland, OH.

