



GATHERING

Welcome and Time of Greeting

Rev. Paula Womack

Invocation

Kathy Austin

Meditation

Mostly because of dying stars,
scientists say space smells like barbecue
and gunpowder. Which is to say
space smells like the United States—

a holiday where we celebrate the independence
of machine guns, how anyone can buy
a cemetery at a sporting goods store
on their 18th birthday[...]

[...]Each election don't say we can
stomach the boy loading a black hole
into his backpack and unloading it

in the high school hallway
on Valentine's day[...]

[...]Because there is no air, it is silent in space.
But not as silent as the Christians
on the Senate floor while twenty more families
are asked if they'd like to talk

to a priest. Christ could tear the nails
from his hands and scrape them down
a shrapnel-battered chalkboard
and they'd still be praying for their bank accounts[...]

[...]And that's as happy as the ending gets
right now. The heroes almost always dead.
The flag at half mass grave.

—Andrea Gibson, excerpts from "America, Reloading"

Prelude

David Wilson

*Call to Worship

Rev. Tyler Ung

One: Beckoned to this place of belonging, we, of Umstead Park United Church of Christ, with body, mind, and spirit, gather to worship, serve, and proclaim God, unknowable mystery whose center is love, and Jesus the Christ, who makes this loving mystery known.

Many: **With inarticulate words and unfinished lives, we yearn to further embody this holy love, shaping the future as partners with God, who dances and weeps with us along the way.**

-from the UPUCC Covenant

*Gathering Hymn

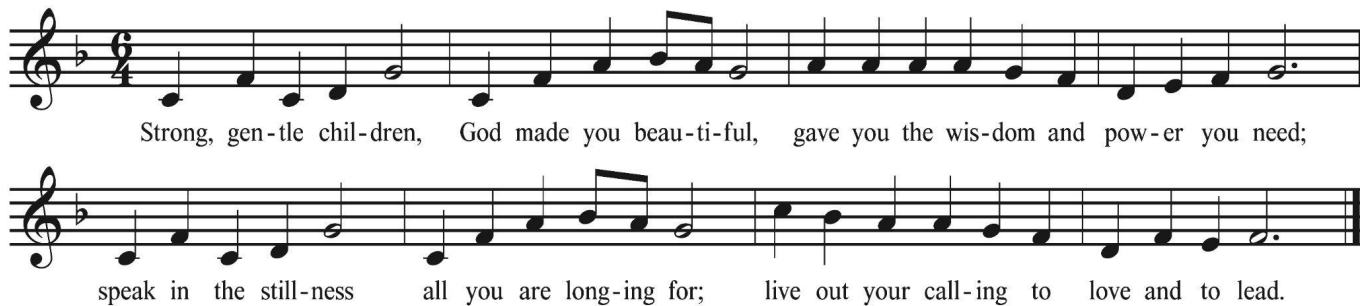
#576, "For the Healing of the Nations"

Congregation

HEARING AND RESPONDING

Time with Children

Rev. Tyler Ung



Strong, gen-tle chil-dren, God made you beau-ti-ful, gave you the wis-dom and pow-er you need;
speak in the still-ness all you are long-ing for; live out your call-ing to love and to lead.

Reading of Scripture Micah 4:1–5, *Robert Altar’s Translation*, adapted
(see insert)

Kathy Austin

Sermon “It Shall Happen in Future Days”

Rev. Tyler Ung

***Responsive Hymn** #571, “O God of Love, O God of Peace”

Congregation

Prayers of the People

Rev. Paula Womack

One: This is my prayer.

Many: This is our prayer.



You are invited to share names or brief joys and concerns. To submit written prayer requests for the weekly email, visit tinyurl.com/upuccprayers, or scan the QR code to the left.

Celebration of Gifts

Rev. Paula Womack



In addition to placing gifts into the offering basket, you may also visit upucc.org/giving or scan the QR code to the left to make an online contribution.

Blessing Our Students and Educators

Rev. Tyler Ung

A special recognition of our graduates: Ava Andrews and Sara Acosta!

One: For the lessons learned, the growth experienced, and the kindness shared, we give our thanks and our blessing.

Many: May you find wisdom on the journey!

One: For the coming time of rest at the end of work and labor, we give our thanks and our blessing.

Many: May you be renewed on the journey!

One: And for the sacred moment of seasons changing—the end of school, graduations, and the beginning of new endeavors—we give our thanks and our blessing.

Many: May you be surrounded by love wherever the journey leads!

Litany of Farewell

Rev. Tyler Ung

One: Mary Pat, for all of the care you have shared with us, all of the relationships built, for every step of the journey we’ve taken together—

Many: We give our deepest thanks.

One: For anything left undone, for the steps not taken or mistaken—

Many: We give our forgiveness, as Jesus taught.

One: And for all the life that lies ahead, for the new season awaiting you, and for the times when our journeys meet again—

Many: We give our love and our blessing. Amen.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn

“For Everyone Born”
(see insert)

Congregation

Announcements

*Affirmation of Community

Kathy Austin

One: We believe that all people are God’s people, that every child is holy, that every person is a part of the sacred family.

Many: We believe that God’s love embraces all, and that to exclude any person would be contrary to the message of Jesus.

One: We proclaim that this community of faith, Umstead Park UCC, will strive to be as open as the radical realm of God, and as liberating as the love of Christ.

Many: And so we journey into our hopeful future with joy, pledging to offer each other welcome, compassion and care. May God grant us wisdom, grace, and guidance in our life together.

*Benediction

Rev. Tyler Ung

Postlude

David Wilson

umstead park

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHRIST

Church Staff

Lindsay Cooper, she/her
Nursery Director

Rev. Tyler Ung, they/them
Senior Pastor

Gwen Vass, she/her
Financial Administrator

Cody Walter Welch, he/him/they/them
Teaching Intern

David Wilson, he/him
Director of Music


Rev. Paula Womack, she/her
Associate Pastor


A special “thank you” to this week’s volunteers:

Amy Lewis (she/her), Coffee Set Up
Lee Harrison (he/him), Assistant Treasurer
Nicki Norris (she/her), Greeter
Ada McKerrell, Greeter
Kathy Austin (she/her), Lay Leader
Bob Martin (he/him), Usher
Alice Jermynm (she/her), Usher
Bill Yoder (he/him), AV Team
Reed Altman, AV Team



We at
Umstead Park
United Church of Christ
welcome and affirm all
as we journey to seek
the divine, to embody loving
community, and to strive for
justice as a progressive
community of
faith.

 **Giving**
Scan the QR code to make a one-time
or recurring donation!

 **Visiting?**
You are invited to fill out the online visitor
form so that we can get to know you!

 **Realm**
Access your
Realm account

Supplemental Hymns and Texts

About the Sculpture On the Communion Table

From Rev. Stan Wilson, RAWtools South, Asheville, NC:
Winds of Change (wood & steel)

"Whenever he feels a breeze or gust of wind my friend Dan says, 'The Spirit is on the Move' with a tone of admiration mixed with amazement. I love this practice and have claimed it for myself; it's a great reminder to pause for a moment, squint and try to see where the Spirit is moving and what it might be asking of me. The Spirit is always on the move whether or not I'm paying attention. For those of us who believe in a dynamic and creative God, keeping a finger on the pulse of 'Where is the Spirit moving now?' is a large part of our practice.

"There is a growing movement to end gun violence in America and I believe Spirit is a part of that broadening effort. This little sculpture can remind us that Spirit is at work here and now, even indoors. Made from three different gun parts: an overturned rifle stock as the base, a cylinder from a revolver, and the lining of a barrel twisting up and out moving in multiple directions. The wispy part can turn in the revolver cylinder and point in different directions.

"Trinitarians might see these three interconnected, structurally dependent parts, as a reminder of the three persons of God whose relational dynamics create not just the wind but everything that is salvific all the way down to the very Ground of Being. If you look closely on the tip of the gun stock it is stamped 1944. I don't know if it was used in WWII, but it could have been. Using a slice of this stock and turning it upside down is in the same Spirit of the Nonviolent Jesus overturning tables in the temple. It seeks to turn over and look with curiosity at what perversions of Love have become normal and accepted practices. We, the followers of Jesus, can sit with whom Jesus would ask us to kill? The Spirit is on the move."

Reading of Scripture Micah 4:1–5, *Robert Altar's Translation*, adapted

Kathy Austin

¹ And it shall happen in future days
that the mount of the Lord's house shall be firm-founded
at the top of the mountains and lifted over the hills.

And the people shall flow to it,

² and many nations shall go and say:

"Come, let us go up to the mount of the Lord,
and to the house of Jacob's God,
that we may be instructed in God's ways
and walk in God's paths."

For from Zion shall teaching come forth
and the Lord's word from Jerusalem.

³ And God shall judge among many peoples
and be arbiter to vast nations from far away.

And they shall grind their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation shall not raise sword against nation,
nor shall they learn war anymore.

⁴ And they shall dwell each person beneath their vine
and beneath their fig tree, with none to make them tremble,
for the mouth of God Omnipotent has spoken.

⁵ For all the peoples shall walk
each in the name of their own god.

But we shall walk
in the name of our God
forevermore.



1. For ev - ery - one born,	a place at the ta - ble,___
2. For wo - man and man,	a place at the ta - ble,___
3. For gay, bi, and straight,	a place at the ta - ble,___
4. For just and un - just,	a place at the ta - ble,___



for ev - ery - one born,___	clean wa - ter and bread,___
and all those be - tween,___	be - yond, and be - sides;___
in - vit - ed to wed,___	to bap - tize and preach,___
a chance to re - pent,___	re - form, and re - build,___



a shel - ter, a space,___	a safe place for grow - ing,___
ex - pand - ing our world,___	dis - man - tl - ing pow - er,___
a rain - bow of race___	and gen - der and co - lor,___
pro - tect - ing the wronged,___	with - out shame or pres - sure,___



for ev - ery - one born,___	a star o - ver - head,
each val - ued for what___	their voice___ can pro - vide.
for queer, trans, and ace,___	God's jus - tice in reach.
for just and un - just,___	God's vi - sion ful - filled.

Refrain



and God___ will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice___



and joy,___ com - pas - sion and peace:



yes, God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus-tice,___ jus-tice and joy!