

Welcome to

Betty's Diner

We're always open



Menu

Bread of Life	Priceless
Cup of Blessing	Priceless
Presence of Christ	Priceless
Forgiveness and the Love of God	Absolutely Free

Central Congregational United Church of Christ

May 2, 2021

*Here we are all in one place,
The wants and wounds of the human race.
Despair and hope sit face to face
When you come in from the cold.*

“LORD OF THE DANCE” **Corbin Eakes**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS **Melanie Ralston**

GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God of grace and mercy, who created us from your own image and who declared us to be “very good,” we recognize and confess that we try to center the world on ourselves, rather than accept that we are part of the whole. Forgive and reconcile us to you and to all people. Amen.

A few moments for silent reflection.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS
Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether;
anyone in Christ is part of the beloved community;
anyone in Christ is forgiven and redeemed. Hallelujah!

CHILDREN’S TIME **Rev. Gage Church**

“THIS IS THE DAY”

JUST HUM ALONG, PLEASE!

This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

This is the day, this is the day
Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day Jesus rose again,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.

This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 11:17-22

Melanie Ralston

¹⁷ But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because
when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse.

¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I
hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part,
¹⁹ for there must be factions among you in order that those who
are genuine among you may be recognized. ²⁰ When you come
together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. ²¹ For in eating,
each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another
gets drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?
Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who
have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in
this? No, I will not. (Common English Bible)

“BETTY’S DINER”

Carrie Newcomer

Miranda works the late night counter
In a joint called Betty's Diner,
Chrome and checkered tablecloths,
One steamy windowpane.

She got the job that shaky fall,
And after hours she'll write till dawn.
With a nod and smile she serves them all.

[REFRAIN]

Here we are all in one place,
The wants and wounds of the human race.
Despair and hope sit face to face
When you come in from the cold.
Let her fill your cup with something kind.
Eggs and toast like bread and wine.
She's heard it all so she don't mind.

Arthur lets his Earl Gray steep.
Since April it's been hard to sleep.
You know they tried most everything,
Yet it took her in the end.

Kevin tests new saxophones,
But swears he's leaving quality control
For the Chicago scene, or New Orleans,
Where they still play righteous horns.

[REPEAT REFRAIN]

Jack studies here after work.
To get past high school he's the first,
And his large hands seem just as comfortable
With a hammer or a pen.

Emma leaned and kissed his cheek,
And when she did his knees got weak.
Miranda smiles at 'em and winks.

[REPEAT REFRAIN]

You never know who'll be your witness.
You never know who grants forgiveness.
Look to heaven or sit with us.

Permission granted March 24, 2021, to print lyrics and play "Betty's Diner" in worship and livestreaming. ©2003 Carrie Newcomer. Thank you, Carrie!

Deidra bites her lip and frowns.
She works the stop and go downtown.
She's pretty good at the crossword page,
And she paints her eyes blue black

Tristan comes along sometimes,
Small for his age and he's barely 5,
But she loves him like a mama lion.

Veda used to drink a lot,
Almost lost it all before she stopped.
Comes in at night with her friend Mike,
Who runs the crisis line.

Michael toured Saigon and back,
Hair the color of smoke and ash.
Their heads are bowed and hands are clasped,
One more storm has passed.

[REPEAT REFRAIN]

MESSAGE

Rev. Gage Church

"LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER"

JUST HUM ALONG, PLEASE!

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us share the cup together on our knees;
let us share the cup together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Melanie Ralston

SILENT MEDITATION & PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

Melanie Ralston

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (CEB)

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us as a sign of your love. May we gather as one in the world just as we gather as one around your table. Amen.

OFFERING OF GIFT

Linda Smith

*A note to visitors: Your presence today is a gift to us.
We are "centralchurchopeka" on Venmo.*

* DOXOLOGY (HYMN OF PRAISE)

JUST HUM ALONG, PLEASE!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of Hope, you spread your table with the abundance of your love. May we spread that love everywhere. Amen.

SENDING PRAYER

"IN THE MIDST OF NEW DIMENSIONS"

Corbin Eakes



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