

UNITE IN LOVE

Pre-service

Welcome

Rev. Julie Erkel Hagee

Prelude

Call to Worship

Please rise and join me in the responsive call to worship as shown on the screens.

One: We have been given minds to know God,

ALL: hearts to love God,

One: and voices to sing God’s praise.

ALL: Let’s celebrate God’s glory!

Gathering Hymn #20

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

ALL: Gracious God,

our sins are too heavy to carry,

too real to hide,

and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name,

what our hearts can no longer bear.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;

open to us a future in which we can be changed;

and grant us grace

to grow more and more in your likeness and image;

through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Quiet Reflection

Assurance of Grace

One: Friends, hear and share the good news:

ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God!

Response to Grace #659

“Know that God is Good”

Passing the Peace

GROW IN FAITH

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Esther 1:1-21 CEB

One: The word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Time for Wonder

Reflection on the Word

Hymn

"Perhaps You Have Been Chosen" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

"Perhaps you have been chosen for such a time as this!"
So Mordecai told Esther to serve as she'd been blessed.
Their people were in danger and needed someone brave —
A queen who knew her calling to risk and act and save.

She stood up for her people and dared approach the king
Although he might have killed her for doing such a thing.
Inviting him to dinner — a feast to satisfy —
She asked of him a favor: "Don't let my people die!"

The king gave what she wanted and let her people live,
And all because Queen Esther used what she had to give.
She faced her fear with courage, she changed the things she could,
She chose to make a difference — to use her life for good.

O God, we look around us and see a world in need.
There's violence and injustice, there's prejudice and greed.
Remind us of our calling to bravely use our gifts.
Perhaps we have been chosen for such a time as this.

Litany of Gifts

One: There are different gifts,

All: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

One: There are different ways of serving God,

All: But it is the same Lord who is served.

One: God works through each person in a unique way,

All: But it is God's purpose that is achieved.

One: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

All: To use it for the common good.

One: Together we are the body of Christ,

All: And individually members of it.

Profession of Faith

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[celebrant continues]

Constitutional Questions

Questions to the Congregation

Do we, the members of First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls, accept Judy, Ray, and Brad, as Ruling Elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer of Installation

Declaration of Installation

REACH OUT TO OTHERS

Joy and Concerns

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Creator in heaven, holy is your name, your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Offering Invitation & Dedication

Doxology #606

Our Life Together

*Sending Hymn #747

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

*Blessing and Charge

Postlude