



August 11, 2024 9:30 a.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, August 11, 2024

Joys and Concerns

Sharla Hulsey

In order to respect privacy, joys and concerns will be discussed before the public livestream. If you need to add someone, please fill out a prayer request form and place in the offering tray as it is passed.

Welcome and Announcements

John Daniel, Elder

If you are joining Sunday worship via Facebook Live, let us know you are tuning in by leaving a comment on the live stream video or visit fccbutler.org and click the Register Attendance button.

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Mary Coffman

Bringing the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary

*Call to worship (please rise as able)

John Daniel & Congregation

L: We will walk this day with you, O God, and you will walk with us,

P: gathering us into a community to pray for one another in all things.

L: We will walk this day with you, O Christ, and you will walk with us,

P: calling us to follow you, helping us to set aside all which holds us back.

L: We will walk this day with you, O Spirit, and you will walk with us,

P: sending us out, side by side, to serve those cast aside by the world.

*Opening Hymn

Chalice Hymnal #91 (vv. 1, 4, 5)

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

*Invocation

John Daniel & Congregation

**Loving God,
open our eyes to see what is beautiful,
our minds to know what is true,
and our hearts to love what is good;
for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Prayer Hymn

CH #588 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Sharla Hulsey

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.

Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

Responsive Reading

John Daniel & Congregation

Psalm 32:1-6 (*Chalice Hymnal*)

L: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**P: Happy are those to whom God imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

L: While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**P: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

L: Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

**P: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to God,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

L: Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;

**P: at a time of distress,
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

Special Music

TBA

Scripture

Jennifer Schmehl

James 5:13-20

Message

Sharla Hulsey

"Admit it"

Invitation to Discipleship

Sharla Hulsey

*Invitation Hymn

CH #339 (vv. 1, 3, 4)

"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"

Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

Offering Meditation

Diana Rich

Tithes & Offerings

Diaconate

Offering trays will be passed in the pews.

*Doxology CH #47
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication John Daniel

Call to Communion Sharla Hulsey

Communion Hymn CH #345 (vv. 1, 4, 5)
"Thy Life Was Giv'n for Me"

Words of Institution Sharla Hulsey

Communion Prayer John Daniel

Distribution of the Elements Diaconate
Everyone is welcome at Christ's Table. Those who are comfortable doing so, please come forward down the center aisle to partake at the table. Deacons will serve those who remain seated.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Benediction Sharla Hulsey
Taking the Light of Christ into the World

*Closing Hymn CH #434 (v. 1)
"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

* Please rise as able

SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Sharla Hulsey

Elder: John Daniel

Deacons: Judy Daniel,
Sally Bremer

Greeter: Carol Roberts

Scripture Reader: Jennifer Schmehl

Choir Director: Carol Ann Winburn

Accompanist: Mary Coffman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **OUTREACH MISSION**

For August, we will be supporting the Community Food Pantry with school lunch donations, such as peanut butter and jelly, snack crackers, fruit cups, and juice boxes. Bring donations to the church. Thank you!

• **KETCH-UP CAMPAIGN**

The Stewardship Committee started a "Ketch-up" campaign to help replenish the FCC reserve fund. The goal is \$20,000. Currently we have raised \$4,840. Please note on your donation that it is for the "Ketch-Up" campaign.

• **ELDERS MEETING**

Today after worship

• **BOARD MEETING**

Sunday, August 18, after worship

• **COMMUNITY CAFÉ**

Tuesday, August 20 at 5:30 p.m.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, August 11:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Life Group
		Elders Meeting
Friday, August 16:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, August 18:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 20:	5:30 p.m.	Community Café
Friday, August 23:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies

ON HEARING A CONFESSION

Confessing our sins to another person requires courage. Hearing another's confession requires some particular attitudes and behaviors. Here is some advice from Richard Foster that you might find helpful if someone comes to you to make a confession.

Like any spiritual ministry there is a preparation involved in being able to hear rightly the confession of a brother or sister.

We begin by learning to live under the cross. Bonhoeffer writes, "Anybody who lives beneath the Cross and who has discerned in the Cross of Jesus the utter wickedness of all men and of his own heart will find there is no sin that can ever be alien to him. Anybody who has once been horrified by the dreadfulness of his own sin that nailed Jesus to the Cross will no longer be horrified by even the rankest sins of a brother." This is the one thing that will save us from ever being offended in the confession of another. It forever delivers us from conveying any attitude of superiority. We know the deceptiveness of the human heart, and we know the grace and mercy of God's acceptance. Once we see the awfulness of sin we know that, regardless of what others have done, we ourselves are the chief of sinners.

Therefore, there is nothing that anyone can say that will disturb us. Nothing. By living under the cross we can hear the worst possible things from the best possible people without so much as batting an eyelash. If we live in that reality, we will convey that spirit to others. They know it is safe to come to us. They know we can receive anything they could possibly reveal. They know we will never condescend to them but, instead, understand.

When we live in this spirit, we do not need to tell others that we will keep privileged information privileged. They know we will never betray a confidence. We do not have to tell them. Nor will we ever be tempted to betray it, for we know the godly sorrow that has driven them to this difficult step.

By living under the cross we are delivered from the danger of spiritual domination. We have stood where our brother now stands and so the desire to use his confession against him is gone. Nor do we feel any need to control him or to straighten him out. All we feel is acceptance and understanding.

As we prepare for this sacred ministry it is wise that we regularly pray for an increase of the light of Christ within us so that, as we are with others, we will radiate his life and light into them. We want to learn how to live so that our very presence will speak of the love and forgiving grace of God. Also, we should pray for an increase of the gift of discernment. This is especially important when we minister to them following the

confession. We need to be able to perceive the real healing needed in the deep, inner spirit.

It is important that when others are opening their griefs to us we discipline ourselves to be quiet. We will be tempted severely to relieve the tension of the situation by some offhanded comment. This is very distracting and even destructive to the sacredness of the moment. Neither should we try to pry out more details than are necessary. If we feel that out of embarrassment or fear they are holding something back, the best method is to wait silently and prayerfully.

It is often helpful by prayer to set the cross between yourself and the penitent. This protects them from receiving merely human emotion from you and protects you from receiving any harmful influences from them. Everything is filtered through the light of the cross. Your human compassion is heightened and enlivened by divine love. You are praying for them through the power of the cross.

It hardly needs to be said that as they share, you are praying for them. Inwardly and imperceptibly (it would be unkind to make a display of your praying) you are sending prayers of love and forgiveness into them. Also, you are praying that they will share the "key" that will reveal any area needing the healing touch of Christ.

Finally, it is extremely important that you pray for the person and not just counsel with them. Before or during the prayer we should announce to them that the forgiveness that is in Jesus Christ is now real and effective for them. We can say this in words and tones of genuine authority for we have all of heaven behind the absolution (Jn 20:22, 23).

The prayer is for the healing of the inner wounds that the sin has caused. It is best to accompany the prayer with the "laying on of hands" which is an elemental teaching of the Bible and is a means through which God communicates his life-giving power (Heb 6:2). Invite God to flow into the deep inner mind and heal the sorrows of the past. Picture the healing. Thank him for it. Of this ministry of prayer Agnes Sanford writes, "One makes a very deep rapport in this kind of prayer. One feels the feelings of the person for whom one prays; so much so that often the tears come from some deep center of compassion within the soul. Yet, if one weeps, it is not in grief but in joy, knowing that these tears are not one's own but are the tears of the compassionate heart of Christ brooding over this lost one, and the joy of Christ that at last He has been given a channel through which He can reach this person whom He loves."