

*** INVOCATION**

ALL: God of city dwellers, mountain skiers and highland farmers, God of developing nations and of industrial powers, God of laborers and of administrators, your people speak many languages and experience you in many ways. From the mountains and streams of Colorado to the arches and peaks of Utah and the high plains of Southern Wyoming, we experience your presence throughout this Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ. Help us to hear today all the ways you reach out to us, and to discern your will for our lives. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*** HYMN**

“Jesus Loves Me” (NCH 327)

“Draw the Circle Wide” (SING 123)

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

ONE: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

ALL: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

(Since our last Annual Meeting, the UCC has now become in full communion with UCCanada, and this is the United Church of Canada's "New Creed" of 1990.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Most merciful God, you call us to be in relationship, community and in communion with one another across vast geographies, theologies and identities. You call us to overcome divisions caused by conflict and by being too busy with our lives and insular ministries. We confess that we have not always remained in touch with our siblings in Christ outside of our congregation. We confess that often the work of church becomes the work of maintaining buildings or recruiting new members. Help us to recall the Gospel in all we do and to renew our commitment to radical hospitality and connection. For if you, our God of the Universe, can so radically and intimately connect to us human beings, then surely we can find new ways to stay connected in our journey. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

READING

John 15:1-5a; 17:17-23

MESSAGE

“Reaching and Stretching”

HYMN DURING THE MESSAGE

“Spirit of the Living God” (NCH 283)

“Gathered Here in the Mystery” (NCH 742)

OFFERING

The offerings taken in worship at the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC Annual Meeting will be distributed to the Volunteers of America Resource Center for Homeless Youth in Salt Lake City and to the conference's efforts to send youth to the National Youth Event this summer.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ALL: Gracious Friend and tender of the vineyard,
your blessings to us are free and abundant. it is
with grateful hearts that we present our tithes
and offerings, believing that you will multiply
and use them in order that the realm of God on
earth will bear much fruit. Amen.

* HYMN

“Many Are the Lightbeams” (NCH 163)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL: Loving God,
You nourish us with love and grace every day.
When we live in you, your love flows out from us
Into every relationship,
Every word, every thought, every action.
Help us to use your love as a guide for others,
So that all will come to blossom
In your creative and forgiving love.
Help us also to live out your love
At home, at work, at school, on the highway,
And with friends, neighbors, and even strangers.
We pray in the name of Jesus, who is our Peace.
Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER / THE JESUS PRAYER

* HYMN

“In the Midst of New Dimensions” (NCH 391)
“Forward Through the Ages” (NCH 377)

* BENEDICTION

ALL-CONFERENCE WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016

Bold type invites the congregation to respond in unison.

** This symbol invites the congregation to rise in body or spirit.*

* GATHERING HYMN

“We Gather Together” (NCH 421)

“This Is the Day” (NCH 84)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We gather today in the vineyard of God’s grace and love.

ALL: Jesus has invited us here, saying to us, “Abide in me as I abide in you.”

ONE: We live in Jesus Christ and work for the fruit of the vineyard of God’s making.

ALL: Those who abide in Jesus blossom and flourish in God’s wondrous love.

ONE: We are sanctified by this work of caring for the vines, arbors and grapes of God’s wondrous creation.

ALL: Let us worship and praise God for the opportunity to share in this sacred and eternal work of making all things whole and new.