



3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 13, 2021

One O'clock in the Afternoon

Hymn NCH #414 *Incarnate God, Immortal Love*

Call to Worship

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 adapted

One: It is good to give thanks to God—

All: to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

One: to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

All: It is good to give thanks to the music of the lute and the harp and the melody of the lyre.

One: For you, O God, have made me glad by your work;

All: at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

One: The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

All: They are planted in the house of God; they flourish in the courts of our God.

One: In old age they still produce fruit;

they are always green and full of sap, showing that God is upright;

All: God is my rock, and has no unrighteousness,

Which makes possible peace within and among us.

One: So we truly can greet one another, “The peace of God be with you.”

All: And also with you.

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Gracious God, in whom we live and move and have our being, your kingdom comes, and spreads, and takes hold whether we labor for its sake or not. Your love succeeds at its purpose of love. Your grace pours forth, whether we join this joyous tide or not.

We're not used to being gratuitous. We're used to being agents in all that happens, especially in what's important. We're used to being sent on some important mission, the success or failure of which depends upon us.

Today, though, we remember your will, we celebrate your movement, we rejoice and rest assured in the faithfulness of your work in all things for good. Because of you, all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.

This confession feels like a scandal: a shirking of responsibility, a dodging of duty. Help us to hear it as faith in your amazing grace.

Help us also to join it—your strong will for good to prevail, your patience that your goodness might work its way through time, your victory in the world which, encompassed by your eternal kingdom, has as its true king, reigning in love from the cross, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom we pray. Amen.

Readings Ezekiel 17:22-24; Mark 4:26-34

Sermon

Hymn NCH #540 *We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed*

Pastoral Prayer

Joys and Concerns

One: God be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them to God.*

One: Let us pray.

Spoken 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offering Please don't forget to make your offering! (Church on the Hill: 55 Main Street, Lenox, 01240; Monterey Church: PO Box 182, Monterey 01240, or online)

Benediction

About the Monterey United Church of Christ

First gathered in 1750, the Monterey United Church of Christ, Congregational, in the name of its host, Jesus Christ, welcomes all who seek to know God and invites everyone to join in our common life and mission through participation in this congregation. As Jesus Christ did before

us, we affirm that each individual is a child of God and recognize that we are called to be like one reconciled body with many members, seeking with others of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual identity, and physical or mental ability, to journey together toward the promised realm of God. On the threshold of Christ's open door, we rely upon the healing, unconditional nature of God's love and grace to be our help and guide as we all move forward with the work of this church in the world.



MONTEREY CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

It's Not What You Think

Contact Information: 413-329-3026, liz@goodman.md **Web Address:** Montereychurch.org
Podcast address: Rev. Liz Goodman, Lenox & Monterey **Pastor:** Rev. Liz Goodman

About the Church on the Hill, Lenox

First gathered in 1769, the Church on the Hill, UCC, in the name of its host, Jesus Christ, welcomes all who seek to know God and invites everyone to join in our common life and mission through participation in this congregation. As Jesus Christ did before us, we affirm that each individual is a child of God and recognize that we are called to be like one reconciled body with many members, seeking with others of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual identity, and physical or mental ability, to journey together toward the promised realm of God. On the threshold of Christ's open door, the Holy Spirit leads us into a beloved world where we seek to serve as Christ's disciples for the sake of God's good news which is for all.



COME AS YOU ARE. RECEIVE AS YOU NEED. SERVE AS YOU CAN.

Office Information: 55 Main Street; 637-1001; Monday-Thursday, 9 AM-12 PM (call first!)
Web Address: lenoxucc.org **Podcast address:** Rev. Liz Goodman, Lenox & Monterey
Pastor: Rev. Liz Goodman (413-329-3026; liz@goodman.md)

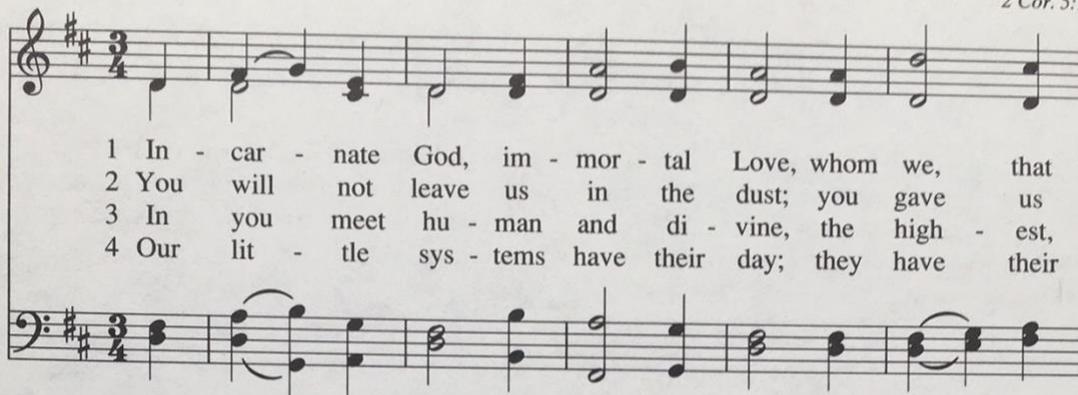
Incarnate God, Immortal Love

Alfred Tennyson, 1850; alt.

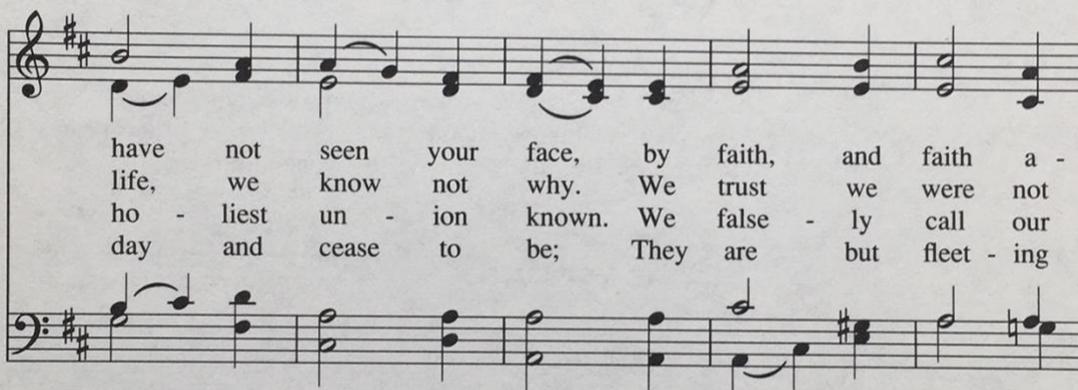
FAITH

414

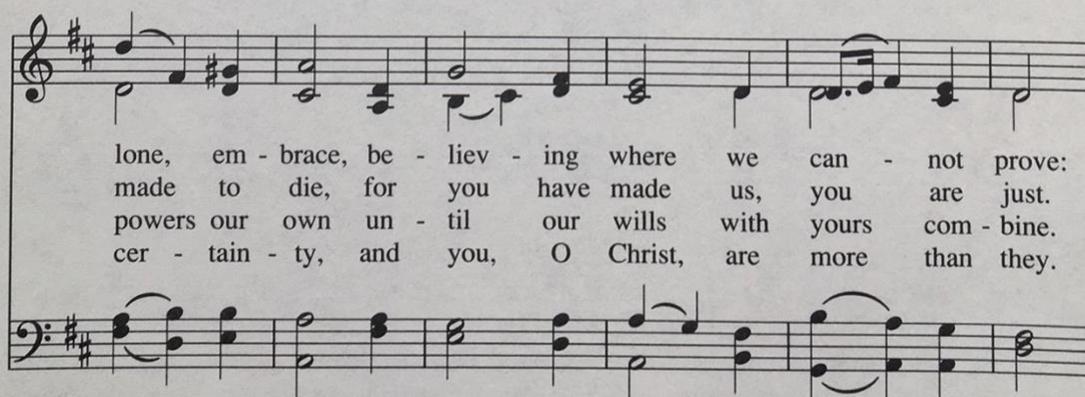
2 Cor. 5:7



1 In - car - nate God, im - mor - tal Love, whom we, that
2 You will not leave us in the dust; you gave us
3 In you meet hu - man and di - vine, the high - est,
4 Our lit - tle sys - tems have their day; they have their



have not seen your face, by faith, and faith a -
life, we know not why. We trust we were not
ho - liest un - ion known. We false - ly call our
day and cease to be; They are but fleet - ing



lone, em - brace, be - liev - ing where we can - not prove:
made to die, for you have made us, you are just.
powers our own un - til our wills with yours com - bine.
cer - tain - ty, and you, O Christ, are more than they.

- 5 We have but faith; we can-not know,
for knowl-edge is of things proved true;
And yet we trust it comes from you,
a sign of prom-ise; let it grow.
- 6 Let knowl-ledge grow from more to more,
but more of rev-erence in us dwell;
That mind and soul, ac-cord-ing well,
may make one music as be-fore.

SERVICE

540

We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed

Matt. 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19;
John 13:34-35; 15:12-17

Mary Bryan Matney, 1990

1 We plant a grain of mus - tard seed, and in our faith we find
2 Our ac - tions, more than words, de - fine how love's ex - am - ple feeds
3 When stooped to lend a help - ing hand, we find a touch that heals,
4 Make love our pur - pose, love our aim, for love en - dures all things,

the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind;
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds;
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields;
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings;

the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind.
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds.
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields.
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings.

5 So may our new be - gin - nings prove,
like liv - ing bread and wine,
that through our com - mon hu - man love
we taste what is di - vine;
that through our com - mon hu - man love
we taste what is di - vine.

6 Our lives will be ful - filled and blessed
if through the seeds we've sown
and by the love that we pro - fess
the love of Christ is known;
and by the love that we pro - fess
the love of Christ is known.

Mary Bryan Matney and Sally Ann Morris wrote this hymn in 1990 for the marriage of friends. In 1992, it won first prize in its category in a hymnwriting competition sponsored by

Tune: NEW BEGINNINGS 8.6.8.6.8.6.
Sally Ann Morris, 1990