Kenilworth Union Church
Prayer reminds us of the power of God’s Word
July 14, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.
CONNECT TO MID-DAY WORSHIP

“So our building and promotion of the church is not the result of our works but of the Word of God which we preach.” – Martin Luther

Opening Response

Iona Community

Leader: O Christ, there is no plant in the ground but is full of your virtue.

All: There is no form in the strand but is full of your blessing.

Leader: There is no life in the sea, there is no creature in the ocean,

All: There is nothing in the heavens but proclaims your goodness.

Leader: There is no bird on the wind, there is no star in the sky,

All: There is nothing beneath the sun but proclaims your goodness.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 145:7–13, responsively

You calm the roaring seas; calm the roaring waves, calm the noise of the nations.

Those who dwell on the far edges stand in awe of your acts. You make the gateways of morning and evening sing for joy.

You visit the earth and make it abundant, enriching it greatly by God’s stream, full of water.

You provide people with grain because that is what you’ve decided.

Drenching the earth’s furrows, leveling its ridges, you soften it with rain showers; you bless its growth.
You crown the year with your goodness;
your paths overflow with rich food.
Even the desert pastures drip with it,
and the hills are dressed in pure joy.

The meadowlands are covered with flocks,
the valleys decked out in grain—
they shout for joy; they break out in song!

Scripture Reading
Isaiah 55:10–13

Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and don’t return there without watering the earth,
making it conceive and yield plants
and providing seed to the sower and food to the eater,
so is my word that comes from my mouth;
it does not return to me empty.
Instead, it does what I want,
and accomplishes what I intend.
Yes, you will go out with celebration,
and you will be brought back in peace.
Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you;
all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
In place of the thorn the cypress will grow;
in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow.
This will attest to the LORD’s stature,
an enduring reminder that won’t be removed.

A Connected Church
Morgan Harper Nichols

Today, I am choosing to believe even here, I am free to thrive. I don’t know what “thriving” will look like for you in this year of your life, but I hope it looks like finding peace. I hope it looks like reading good books and having living room conversations right in the middle of your uncertainty. I hope you notice you are thriving in the most subtle ways, not the most ordinary days when it seems like nothing has changed. I hope “thriving” means saying what the heart longs to say, after you finally
realized you made it a lot further than you had been giving yourself credit for. And may you continue to keep that bold, unbraided hope that there is more in store for you. Amidst these present unknowns, you are free to be present and come alive. I hope you keep breathing deep. I hope you come alive.

Prayers of the People

Eternal God, your word reminds us that we are to echo the joy that your creation vibrantly proclaims. Water our parched lives with your word that we may sprout with new life. Inspire us to live reflecting your abundant love to others. Remind us how you brought the world into being and gave it life. We recognize that your world is vast and glorious, intricate and majestic. It can also be complicated and frightening, worrisome and painful, grief-filled and overwhelming. Let us be reminded that we do not order the nature of things. Thank you, God for having the last word. We offer our deepest concerns and thanksgivings and ask you to restore us in this silence: _____ (90 seconds of silence)

Thank you, God, for this church and for its members. We long for the time when we can worship and sing together in our sanctuary and we are grateful we can meet outdoors and online. We offer the names of members in our community up to you, pray for their protection and faith: John & Polky Kibler, Tom & Katy Kilborn, Linda Kilner-Olivier & Tom Olivier, Tom & Betsy Kilroy, Sara Kimble, Andrew & Cricket King, Ed & Catherine King, Linda Kingman & Jim Graham, Susie Kiphart, Dan & Suzanne Kipp, William & Kitty Kirby, Bev Kirk, Dave & Joni Kirk, Jill Kirk, Mark Kirk, Diane Kirts, Keith & Barbara Kizziah, Christopher & Nikki Klingenstein, Lester & Becky Knight, and Mike & Liz Kohler

Agency: Northwestern Settlement

We pray for the work of our Outreach Partner Northwestern Settlement, founded so long ago to provide resources to empower people who are striving to overcome poverty and to improve the quality of their lives. Thank you, God, for the foresight of the founders from 1891 and please
bless the 8,000 low income people who benefit from the dedicated work of the staff.

There are so many who have been tragically impacted by world and national events. We pray for people who have lost their faith in You, in our institutions and systems, who have lost their incomes, who don’t believe the police mean them well, who have no medical insurance, who are lost, homeless, hungry and alone. There are so many God. Enliven us with your divine compassion, empathy, and action. Because we are your people, help us to represent you when we see injustice, when we see need and where we can offer support and encouragement.

We pray by name, for the people known to us—for your care, protection and encouragement that they may know you and feel you in the midst of painful and difficult circumstances.

Help us all God—please help us find patience, gentleness, faith and hope. And we say the words we cannot sing together from the old hymn:

“Revive us again; Fill each heart with Thy love; May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.”

We pray all of these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

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 and the power and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

Prayer for the Day  
United Methodist Hymnal, #93

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Blessing

David Adam

Lord, grant that we may hear and receive your Holy Word, not only with our ears, but with our hearts and minds also, that we may show forth its fruit in our lives, for the benefit of all and to the glory of your holy name.

Amen