

and touch the world

with the amazing good news that somebody cares,
that God joins us in community so that someday
this world will be loved to wholeness.

Reader 2: I celebrate this community,
where the people say Yes in the face of No,
where they light candles in the somber night,
where healing and compassion leave no time for self-righteousness,
and the life-sustaining love of Christ is evident in
the life of the believers.

Reader 3: I celebrate the church, where we dare to stand up,
where risk runs rampant,
and you and I and all Christ's disciples
are called upon to follow
even when it costs us something,
something precious
like our friends,
like our respectability,
like our future with the company.

Reader 4: I celebrate the church,
where every child of God is hailed as unique and valuable,
where arms are opened to the world's outcasts,
where the tired, beaten, disillusioned world
is invited in
and surprised
by the life-giving word
that Christ accepts the children,
all the children.

Reader 5: I celebrate the injustices righted,
the protests made on behalf of the battered.
I celebrate the awareness and awakening to humanity's
suffering,
the pain alleviated,
the scars erased.
I celebrate the mercy and forgiveness,
the tears wiped away,
the hands held,
the gifts given,
the children treasured and nurtured,

the races won,
the failures met.

Reader 6: I celebrate the healthy grieving for lost children.
I celebrate the life-enhancing hope that brings
the piecing together of the scattered.
I celebrate the church of Jesus Christ,
whose supportive community
holds me when I'm tempted to give up,
enfolds me when I'm hurting,
affirms me, reaches out to me,
gives to me, receives from me.

Reader 7: I cannot live abundantly without this community,
God's church,
where turning to one another and working and rejoicing
with one another is a way of life –
a way of life God chose for us,
a gift God gave us,
a mission that we share.
I celebrate this way of life
that takes me and mine from the center of things
and focuses on ours and theirs.
I celebrate the trust we hold,
the spirit we share,
the attitude of partnership.

Reader 8: I celebrate that love lives among us,
that God's spirit pervades our being, our community.
I see God's face within the lives of these celebrants.
I hear God's voice in the vision of people
who call us to a better way,
a higher hope.
For God works miracles in common clay pots,
Changing caterpillars to butterflies and water to wine,
Changing seeds to oak trees and night to day,
Changing winter to springtime,
Changing lives from ordinary to abundant.

**All: Let's celebrate the church of Jesus Christ
where the wonderful wildness of God
breaks through common clay pots
and fills us with a holy spirit that overflows**

**and we see rainbows,
many-splendored colors,
light in pitch darkness –
and every day is a festival of faith!**

Children's Message

Anthem

Canticle of Creation

Wilbur Held

Chancel Choir

Scripture

Matthew 16:13-19

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Are You In?

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Prayer of the People

Rev. Furtado-Gilliam

Offering

You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.

You may text to give at 84321 or go to the Online Worship page of our website

and click "Make your online offering."

***Hymn**

God of Grace and God of Glory

UMH 577

Benediction

Rev. Wines

Postlude

Lord Jesus, By Thy Word

Dieterich Buxtehude

Mark Frazier, organ

"I Celebrate the Church of Jesus Christ" is adapted from a poem by Ann Weems.

Scripture reading from "The Message: The Bible in Contemporary English" by Eugene H. Peterson

Prayer of the People adapted from a prayer written by Fr. Darrell Burns, SJ