A Service of Healing and Wholeness
June 2, 2012

Opening Sentences (please stand)

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

Call to Confession: (standing)

Jesus said: Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”

Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask, and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace.

Let us open our lives to God’s healing presence, forsaking all that separates us from God and neighbor.

Let us be mindful not only of personal evil but also of our communal sins of family and church.

Let us confess to God whatever has wounded us or brought injury to others, that we may receive mercy and become for each other ministers of God’s grace.

Let us confess our sin together.

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness (standing)

Scripture I Corinthians 13
Reflection
A Litany of our Human Limitations and Hopes -

Leader: Mutually caring relationships require kindness and patience, tolerance, optimism, joy in the other’s achievements, confidence in oneself, and the ability to give without undue thought of gain.

PEOPLE: We need to accept the fact that it’s not in the power of any human being to provide all these things all the time.

LEADER: For any of us, mutually caring relationships will also always include some measure of unkindness and impatience, intolerance, pessimism, envy, self-doubt, and disappointment.

PEOPLE: Confronting our feelings and giving them appropriate expression always takes strength, not weakness.

LEADER: It takes strength to acknowledge our anger, and sometimes more strength yet to curb the aggressive urges anger may bring and to channel them into nonviolent outlets.

PEOPLE: It takes strength to face our sadness and to grieve and to let our anger flow in tears when they need to.

ALL: It takes strength to talk about our feelings and to reach out for help and comfort when we need it.

- from Rev. Fred Rogers

Prayer

Blessing (Please stand)

Leader: As the congregation of Sterry Memorial now leaves the Presbytery of Boise and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) we ask God’s blessing on them. Although the paths in our respective journeys now diverge, we acknowledge that there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God of all who is in all and through all.

ALL: The Lord bless you and keep you.
   The Lord be kind and gracious to you.
   The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.