

“Democracy Ain’t Easy” by Mark Richards

Order of Service October 23, 2022

Prelude: “Jazz Alleluia”, words and music by Thomas Benjamin, performed by the Prairie Choir, conducted by Barb Park, accompanied by Carl Wacker

Welcome and Announcements: Molly Plunkett

Pledge Drive Special Music: “We’ve Met Our Pledge Goal” performed by Renee Deschard, piano cover by Riyandi Kusuma

Chalice Lighting: “Persist in Faith” by Pat Uribe-Lichty

We face a challenge to democracy:
a challenge that calls us to hope in moments of despair,
a challenge that asks us to persist in the faith
that we can and must make a difference.
May our flaming chalice recommit us to truth in our words
and our actions,
that we may live as we believe people should live.

Story for All Ages: Vote for Our Future! by Margaret McNamara, illustrated by Micah Player

Children’s Recessional: by Joyce Poley

As you go on your way, may you be filled with gladness.
Go in joy, go in joy!
May fortune bless your day with peace and loving
kindness.
Go in love, go in love.

Music: “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”, traditional spiritual arranged by Philip M. Young, performed by the Prairie Choir, conducted by Barb, accompanied by Carl

Presentation: “Democracy Ain’t Easy” by Mark Richards
5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

Discussion

Offering and Offertory: “Swimming to the Other Side” by Pat Humphries, performed by Lynn Currie

Closing Words: “by Maureen Killoran

No matter how weak or how frightened we may feel,
we each have gifts that can make a difference in the
world. In this coming week, may you do at least one
thing to support the broken; to welcome the stranger;
to celebrate what is worthy; to do the work of justice
and love.

Be strong.

Be connected.

Each day, act — so you may be a little more whole.

Closing Music: “Prairie Bond of Union Song”, shown on the last page of the SLT hymnal, words by Dean Schroeder, accompanied by Carl

Joys and Concerns and Welcome Guests and Visitors

Greet Your Neighbor

Lyrics to “We’ve Met Our Pledge Goal”

Look at Prairie
Isn’t it neat?
Wouldn’t you think our society’s complete?
Wouldn’t you think we’re the group,
The group who has everything?
Look at these faces
Stories untold
How many wonders can 1 society hold?
Looking around here you’d think,
Sure, we’ve got everything

We’ve got committees and coffee aplenty,
We’ve got listserv posts and programs galore
You want smiling faces?
We’ve got more than twenty
Yes we care
It’s a big deal
But we need more...money

We want to be where fiscally solvent is
We want to see
want to see balanced budgets
Writing down on those
(What’s that word again?) oh - **pledge forms**

Announcements

For the fourth quarter of 2022, Prairie will share its offertory collection Porchlight's DIGS program, which provides eviction-prevention counseling and financial assistance to households facing eviction. In 2021, DIGS counseled 1,007 households and gave financial assistance to 660 households in danger of eviction; 85% of those who received DIGS' assistance remained in housing six months later. The program is running low on funds, and Prairie's Social Action Committee thought it would be an appropriate sharer of our offering.

Our first Soup Sunday in our newly remodeled building will be after the service on **October 30th!** Please join us for lunch and conversation. Suggested donation \$5 for adults. A signup link for contributing soups, salads, and of course desserts will be sent to Prairie News or you may let Nancy Wunderlin know what you'd like to bring.

Prairie's women's group, PrairieWOW, will meet on Saturday, November 5, at 10:00 a.m. ALL women associated with Prairie are welcome to attend – especially newcomers.

Save the Date! Prairie's Fall Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 20, 2022. We'll start the morning with a short service at 10:00 a.m. then move into the meeting. We'll be discussing the budget, a change to the bylaws and other important topics. We need 32 people for a quorum, so please attend!

Prairie Board Officers and Staff

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Rev. Matt Aspin, Minister

Kathy Converse, President

Lynn Currie, Vice President

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Dan Proud, Secretary

Dan Klock, Congregational Administrator

Alice Mandt, Director of Religious Exploration

John (Raju) Eliganti, Custodian

Lyrics cont'd

Hope and dreams only get you so far,
Money is required for honorariums, repairs
Turning in those
(What's that word again?) oh - **pledge forms**

Up where we talk
Up where we have fun
Up where we sometimes see the sun
Out of the red
Wish it could be said
We've met our pledge goal

What would you give
If you could live
Out our UU values
What would you pay
To spend your days
Supporting our Society
No cash in hand
We understand
That's what the pledge forms are for
Let's come together
All together
Hand in hand
And ready to know what the presenters know
Ask 'em some questions
And get some answers
What's covid19's future and how might it
what's the word, mutate?

When's it our turn?
Wouldn't we love
Love to explore our UU values?
Out of the red
Wish it could be said
We've met our pledge goal