

FEBRUARY 10, 2019 WORSHIP

Call to Worship

In the brightest of day, in the deepest of night,
on the mountain, in the valley, in every place we find ourselves
God touches us, and we are transformed.

In this time, together, we invite God to open our eyes
to the transformation of our lives and our communities.

And through the change –we praise a God who is the author of transformation.

Come let's worship God, as we stand as we are able to sing together.

Pastoral Prayer

One of the wonderful things about his place is our Stephen Ministry program – they are in so many caring roles in this congregation – from hospital visits, to one on one visits, and each Sunday, they are in the parlor, available for a conversation or a prayer. **As we pray together, know that our Stephen Ministers support you every day here at NUCC.**

Gracious God, whose power and presence burst the bounds of creation, you scatter the darkness of night with the dawn's glow as a sacrament of hope. You meet us in every moment, but especially in the still spaces, where the clutter of our souls gives way to the serenity of quiet prayer. We discover we are breathing more deeply, seeing more clearly, resting more fully in you. In countless ways, you teach us to cherish the little bits of abundant life scattered throughout our days.

Living God, at one time or another, the storms of life batter us. Sometimes, the thunderbolts jar us enough to awaken us from our complacency. Sometimes, the lightning flashes bring clarity to our jumbled confusion. And at other times, the crashing waves remind us that, as much as we would like to control all of life, there are those times when we simply need to let go and trust in you. Take the struggles we bring to you, as we surrender those people and situations that fuel our anxious worries. You minister to all of our tired hopes and our worn dreams. This morning, we pray for those of us who are imprisoned by fear, bound by regrets, for each one unable to see the potential that you have placed within. In our own community, we lift to you. . .

We pray for those beyond these walls who are part of our constant thoughts. And, we pray for the situations in the world where violence threatens to have the final word. Compassionate One, we want to trust that no storm can shake our inmost calm – and most often we ask you to calm the seas of our lives, but today, we ask only that you would be present in the midst of the storm.

Gracious God, each and every day you surround us like a steady breeze – and you give us the gift of fresh possibility for life-giving transformation, help us to walk so closely with you that our steps would be steady, our hope firm, and our trust secure for we pray in the name of the one we follow, Jesus the Christ. Amen.