

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 4, 2021

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

One: Great is our God and greatly to be praised!

Many: We have come to worship the One whose grace covers all our needs.

One: God is with us here.

Many: We praise with joy God's holy name.

One: Ponder God's steadfast love. Practice sharing that love while we are together.

Many: God's love is amazing, beyond our understanding. We seek to share the love we are receiving.

One: We have come to be equipped for the journey of life.

Many: We have gathered, that our daily witness might be empowered.

One: Let's worship God!

***OPENING SONG:** "Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him" #17

***OPENING PRAYER** (prayed together)

Holy God, you are our sure defense and faithful guide. We ask your presence as we worship you this morning. Your name is proclaimed throughout the earth. When we ponder your greatness, we are filled with awe. When we come to your holy mountain, we are amazed. Who are we to approach your majesty? How can we fulfill the covenant you offer us? Come, Spirit of truth, to show us the way. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

You know how stubborn we can be, Holy God. You call us to serve others, and we stay in the coolness of our own homes. You would send us to where the hopeless live, but we are reluctant to leave the comfort of our complacency. You would feed us on the peace and joy of your word, but we pull our chairs up to the tables of those who serve false

promises.

Forgive us, Guiding God. Transform our defiance into discipleship, and our rejection of others into the resurrection of welcoming all people as sisters and brothers in Christ. Help us to love as faithfully as you have always loved us, and send us forth to take the good news of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: We open our lips and confess our hearts. God hears our words and make us new, sending us out to bring hope and joy to all the world.

Many: We hear the good news, we believe the good news, we will live out the good news. Thanks be to God. Amen!

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 48

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** UCC Statement of Faith (read together)
(inside back cover of hymnal)

***GLORIA PATRI** #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Mark 6:1-13 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "No Baggage" Pastor Chris

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth from this table with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

BRINGING OUR GIFTS
OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

