

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 1, 2021

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

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

One: Lead a life worthy of your calling.

Many: We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people.

One: Lead a life filled with the gifts of your calling, gifts to be used with service and meekness.

Many: We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.

Many: Lead a life which reflects your calling, that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

One: We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; we would share the grace offered to us.

One: Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

Many: We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.

***OPENING SONG:** "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" #598

***OPENING PRAYER** (prayed together)

Speak truth to us this day, God. Speak truth to the most inward parts of our hearts and minds, that we might speak your truth in love and that you might speak your truth through us each and every day. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

Compassionate One: like David, it is not easy for us to confront those deeds which do not please you. We are so busy looking for the miracles we desire, we cannot see the gift of your presence in others. We are so intent on indulging our appetites and slaking our thirsts, we cannot taste that Bread which gives life. We spend so much of our lives bemoaning the acts of others, we have no time to look in the mirror and see our secret faces.

Forgive us, Steadfast Love. Grace us with your mercy, so we might be made whole. Touch our inner being and heal us, so we might know joy and gladness. Create new hearts within us, so they might beat as one with each other, and with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Despite knowing our sin, God chooses to forgive us; seeing our emptiness, God chooses to feed us; holding our shattered hearts, God chooses to heal us. This is the good news: God loves us.

Many: God has graced us with mercy and created new life from our brokenness. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING John 6:24-35

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

***GLORIA PATRI** #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Ephesians 4:1-16 read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: "A Higher Standard of Living" 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 thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all of Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

