

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Upon this gathering of your people,

Many: pour out your Spirit, O Lord.

One: Be near to us and speak to us,

Many: and we will proclaim your glory.

*OPENING SONG

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

#507

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of unquenchable fire and overflowing grace, cast out the demons that oppress us; take away the things that make us stumble. Lead us into your realm of life and season us with your peace; in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

God, our strength, and savior, you know our great transgressions, our hidden faults, our secret sins. With our hands we grasp at power; with our feet we stumble into evil; with our eyes we look out for ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and lead us in your holy way of life and love and peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Though we wander from the truth, God brings us back and saves our souls from death.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Many: Thanks be to God.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9: 38-50

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, maker of all things, provider of all things, who loves all people.

We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us; he sees us for who we are, heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new. In his death and resurrection, we see the deepest truth of life.

We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us for self-giving love.

We give thanks for the Church, the Body of Christ, and for the gift of forgiveness, the power of resurrection and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS

Mark 9:49-50

read from Common English Bible

MESSAGE:

“A Pinch of Salt”

David Skilling

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Your gift of life, O God, is more precious than gold and sweeter than honey to our lips. Take these gifts of our lives: refine and purify them and let them be for the world a sign of your goodness and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

“They’ll Know We Are Christians”

#595

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The liturgy is from "Feasting on the Word Worship Companion".

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris
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September Radio Sponsor: John and Helen Scuffham

Birthdays: 9-26 Margaret Herbst, Derek Person

Today, September 26: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Monday, September 27: Set up Scarecrow, help will be welcome (date is flexible)

Tuesday, September 28: Pastor Chris At Feed Mill

Wednesday, September 29: Newsletter Articles due

Thursday, September 30: 9:30 am. - Evangelism and Outreach Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 3: 10:00 am. – Worship - World Wide Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need offering
Sunday School
Coffee

Thank you to Dave Skilling for your leadership in worship today.

Crop Walk envelopes and material is available in the parlor to pick-up.



Did you know that approximately **17 people per 10,000** experience homelessness each day?