

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is a Stranger"
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 10, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Come and worship.

Many: God is here.

One: Listen for God's word.

Many: It is alive and active.

One: Draw near to the source of mercy.

Many: The God of grace is with us!

One: Let's worship God.

*OPENING SONG

"God of Grace and God of Glory" #569

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

We seek to gather as children of your realm, reigning God. We recognize that you, not we, prescribe the rules under which life can be rich and full and free. Help us in this time of worship to embrace the best we know. Open our thoughts and feelings so we may learn better ways. We approach you with boldness daring to question and make requests, knowing that your grace and compassion exceed our wildest imagining, and your guidance is ever available to those who ask. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

There are so many things, Wise God, which keeps us from following Jesus. We try to turn justice into a bitter pill for others. We push righteousness out of the way, so we can seek those who tell lies. We know, deep down inside, that one thing which keeps us from faithful living, but just can't loosen our grip on it.

We can't seem to do it, God who remembers us, but because everything is possible with you, forgive us, and give us the wisdom to know what that one thing might be; the grace

to let go and leave it behind us; and the courage to follow Jesus wherever he might lead us, especially into that life which you offer in love and hope. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Here at the seat of grace, we are forgiven, and can climb up and find the love of God comforting and restoring us to new life.

Many: Every moment, God offers us a serving of love and mercy, so we can continue to live as God intends. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 4:12-16

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We belong to God, creator of all that is and all that is to come, abundant provider of the gifts in this life and the gifts in our own hearts. It is God alone who gives life, who is generous beyond measure with grace and blessing.

We follow Christ, whom God sent to teach and heal, to show us a new way of living, with love and trust and courage, with joy and generosity. In this faith Jesus gave of himself, even his very life. He was crucified and buried; yet God raised him from death, and he lives among us, and grants his spirit to us.

We live by that Holy Spirit, and entrust ourselves to its guidance and empowerment. As members of the church, the Body of Christ, we devote ourselves to lives of love, rejoicing in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS

Mark 10:17-31

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"Let Go?"

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

Generous God, we bring you our gifts today recognizing that all that we have comes from you. Use these gifts and our lives to bring hope, healing, grace, and peace wherever they are needed. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

#466

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Mary Patrina Boyd from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2021* edited by Mary J Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Led By Love-Worship Resources for Year* By Lavon Bayler. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Homes.

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Organist:
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris
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October Radio Sponsor: In Memory of Julie Buchanan’s birthday. (October 9)

Birthdays: October 11: David Burrow, 10-12: Misty Bachman

Today, October 10: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
2:00 pm. - Crop Walk at 1st Presbyterian Church- Crop Walk envelopes and material is available in the parlor.

Tuesday, October 12: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
7 pm. - Budget Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 13: 7 pm. – Board Meeting

Thursday, October 14: 8:30 am. – Ministerial Meeting at 1st Methodist Church

Saturday October 16: UCC Mobile Mission at Bode's Moonlight Gardens

Sunday, October 17: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

