

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
August 7, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: God called Abraham and Sarah and promised to bless them.

Many: **Through faith they obeyed and received God's inheritance.**

One: God called Isaac and Jacob, as heirs of that promise.

Many: **They too followed in faith, seeking God's realm.**

One: God calls us to join them, as heirs with the faithful.

Many: **We come here in faith, assured by the hope that was fulfilled in the lives of your servants.**

One: Let's worship God!

OPENING SONG

"How Firm a Foundation"

#411

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of light and love, you take delight in your creation. Ignite our spirits to worship you with sincerity. Illumine our minds with the truth of your word. Inspire our hearts to seek your treasure alone, that our hearts may be pure and our actions may be noble and just, as we share your love. Through Jesus Christ, our hope and promise, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

You have a vision of all people as your beloved children, Imaginative God, but we see folks whose language, dress, and skin make them different. You have a vision of a universe filled with goodness and beauty, and we damage it with litter, with violence, with poor choices. You have a vision of a Table where we can feast on your grace and hope, but we line up at the fast food counters of sin and greed.

Forgive us, Visionary of Mercy, as we confess that we are not "insiders" but immigrants searching for our true home. By faith, may we be willing to be as gracious, as

compassionate, and as hopeful as you are. You love us enough to want us to be with you forever, so may we take the hand of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who leads us into your realm. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: There is nothing to fear. God's hope is more tenacious than our despair; God's joy is more resilient than our grief; God's love is more compelling than our hate.

Many: **By grace, we are gathered to God. By faith, we rest in God's promises of forgiveness and restoration. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 12:32-40

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UCC Statement of Faith

(read together)

(inside back cover of hymnal)

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

shared from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

"It Always Takes Faith"

Pastor Chris

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer

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

Eternal God, you have called us to feast at Jesus' table. We thank you for his presence and for the spiritual food that is this bread and this cup. By the power of your Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, our homes and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous One, receive the gifts we bring as we return a portion of your treasure to the use of your kindom. May your will be manifested and your creation restored through sharing these offerings. Amen.

***Closing Song** "God! When Human Bonds are Broken" #416

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are by Robin D. Dillon from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Liturgical Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from the *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith.

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Organist: Vicki Merchlewitz
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett

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August Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal

Birthdays: 8-1: Marilyn Deal, 8-5: Connie Parsons, 8-8 Chris Burtnett, 8-10 Todd TerHark

Today, August 7: 10:00 am.- Worship with Sacrament of Communion
Coffee
Food Pantry

Tuesday, August 9: 9:30-11:00 am. - Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
6:30pm.: Food Pantry Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 10: 5:30-7:30 pm. – Mobile Mission at Party in the Park

Sunday, August 14: 10:00 am – Worship
Coffee

We will be celebrating the sacrament of communion this morning. Everyone is welcome at the table. The inner ring is wine and outer ring is grape juice.

“Our Daily Bread” Unity in Jesus: 10 Reflections on Christian Unity is here. It may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

The Mission and Memorial Team has designated August as Care Team Month. We will collect a special offering for the Care Team throughout the month of August. You may make out a special check or designate an amount in the memo section on your regular offering check. This way it will be credited to the right account.

A Radio sponsor is needed for September. Please let the church office know if you would like to sponsor this month.



*First Congregational
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