

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
November 6, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We gather, with the company of the faithful:

Many: those who know the way to the kingdom
and those who are just beginning their pilgrimage.

One: We gather, remembering the ones we call saints:

Many: those who made compassion their day job,
and those who have no day named after them.

One: We gather, praising God for all who have shaped our faith:

Many: those who showed us the dance steps of heaven,
and those who taught us to play the instruments of joy.

OPENING SONG

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

#148

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of every age and time, inspire us today with memories of saints whose energy still lingers, hovering around and within as encouragement and strength. Wrap us anew with a felt sense of your persistent presence, granting a new energy to offer You everything of our hearts, minds and souls. Yes, Love of Life, root us and ground us in this. And let it be more than enough for today, as we gather in the name of Jesus. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We are so easily confused by what the world tells us, Watching God, that we forget the stories of faith we heard as children. We are so fearful of tomorrow, we are not aware of your Spirit with us today. We are so busy wondering 'what if?' or 'suppose?' - we cannot hear the promises you whisper to us.

So once again, Gracious God, have mercy on us. You know our hearts so well - touch

them with your grace. You see our deepest fears - heal them with your peace. You hear our secret longings - speak to them of your hope. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: The One who searches our broken hearts has found the way to mend them and make us new people. The good news is that everything God has done in Christ is for us, that we might be made whole.

Many: With kindness and with justice, God makes us new people. We will sing our thanks through all eternity. Great is God and greatly to be praised! Amen.

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

insert

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:11-13

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UCC Statement of Faith

(read together)

(inside back cover of hymnal)

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

2 Thessalonians 2:13--17

shared from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE:

"Hold On. Hang Tight. Don't Let Go."

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

For the healing you have given us in the brokenness of bread and the pouring out of cup, we thank you, God. For the community you have restored in us through the sharing of life, we thank you. For the courage and strength that you have promised us even as we have honored the ones of courage in our own past, we thank you. Send us forth from his place in love, letting justice be worked out with gentleness and power known in the presence of your Spirit. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

#34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Eternal God, we dedicate these gifts for the future glory of your church. Toward the
reign of love in our midst, we dedicate ourselves. May the offering we bring this
morning be a sign of hope for the future, that everyone might know of your good news
for all of your beloved children. Amen.

***Closing Song**

For All the Saints”

#529

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

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

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurances are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by B.J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu and Lavon Bayler from *Gathered By Love-Worship Resources for Year C* by Lavon Bayler. The Affirmation of faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is by Sandra E. Graham from *Touch Holiness-Resources for Worship* edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.

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Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
October Radio Sponsor:	Tod & Shelly TerHark

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Today, November 6: 10 am – Worship – Sacrament of Communion
 Sunday School
 Coffee
 Food Pantry
 Mission and Memorial Committee Meeting after worship
 Church Fall Clean-up Day

Tuesday, November 8: 9-11am - Pastor Chris Committee on Ministry Zoom Meeting
 Election Day - Vote

Sunday, November 13: 10 am. – Worship – Stewardship Sunday
 Sunday School
 Coffee

Sunday, November 20: 10 am.- Worship
 Sunday School
 Coffee
 Congregational Budget Meeting
 Thanksgiving Potluck



*First Congregational
 United Church of Christ*

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All Saints Litany

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for all the saints of our lives and the witness they have shared with us even as we continue to walk the journey of faith and make our way to the glory that God is preparing for all of us. Let us pray.

Eternal God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we praise you for the saints of all times and places who have walked the road of faith before us and beside us. For their witness to your love and their commitment to your justice, for their trust in your mercy regardless of the circumstance, we give you thanks and praise.

People: God of all creation, we praise you for all your servants who have witnessed to your truth, who have shown us your love, who have inspired us to have hope. By their example of faith, hope, and love, remind us of your calling to join in making your new creation real in this world and the next.

Leader: God of grace and peace, we praise you for women and men and children who reflect your love into our world. Guide us to continue their faithful work as we too walk in the light of your love.

People: God of all saints, today we especially remember the saints from among this community who have departed our company over the past year.

Everyone: We thank you for the faithful witness of Dennis L. Schwab, and for his courage amidst strife and his hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)

We thank you for the faithful witness of William Deal, and for his courage amidst strife and his hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)

We thank you for the faithful witness of Holly Ann Filson-Heath, and for her courage amidst strife and her hope in the face of death. (The chime is tolled, a candle lit, and a pause for silence)

Leader: We remember so many other saints who have walked this road with us, whom we name before you in silence: *(a moment of silent prayer is kept)*
Continue to inspire us by their faithful witness, that we too might join in bringing your justice, mercy, and peace to our world.

Everyone: Eternal God, as we walk this pilgrim way, make our faith firm, our hope clear, and our love pure, that we might join the saints of all the ages in praise eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ adapted from a post on LiturgyLink, October 30, 2014. <https://www.liturgylink.net/2014/10/30/litany-for-all-saints/>

All Saints Day

The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Psalm 34:22



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays: November 10: Laura (TerHark) Odlund

We are 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” Character-Driven Leadership: 10 Reflections is here. It may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

The Carter Center newsletter update is in the parlor.

The Senior Center Meal on Wheels menu and calendar is on the bulletin board.