

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June 23, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We gather in this place to worship our God:

Many: **calm Presence in our times of confusion, Comforter in our nights of struggle.**

One: We gather with fellow pilgrims, as we seek to follow Jesus:

Many: **Brother to those swamped by fears, Friend to all overwhelmed by loss.**

One: We are brought together by the Spirit who lives in the depths of our souls:

Many: **the Serenity who travels with us on this up-and-down journey we call life.**

*Opening Song:

"Be Still My Soul"

#451

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Holy breath of Life, we enter this space searching for sacred peace. May the winds of this hour be quiet and calming. May the waters of this day be as peaceful as a pond.

May our hearts find the tranquility we desire. May we fill the air with sweet songs of joy. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

They can be such giants in our lives, God of Grace. Each day, our fears, our doubts, our worries wash over us, until we come to believe that you do not care for us. There seems to be so much wrong in the world, we are convinced that there is nothing good we can do. The storms of sin and temptation batter at us, and we cower, unable to find the faith to withstand them.

Forgive us. God of Hope. Remind us that if we but open our hearts, you will heal us. If we but listen to your words, we will hear peace and joy. If we but open our lives to you, we can go forth to serve our sisters, brothers, and siblings even as we have been served by our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: With calming words, with a peaceful Spirit, with overflowing love and hope, our God forgives us and fills us with faith.

Many: **Our God affirms us for who we are - those whose brokenness is made whole, whose sin is forgiven, whose lives overflow with faith. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 9:9-20

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(read together)

I am peaceful, I sleep in peace, when I lie down, I am not afraid. I rise in peace, I live in peaceful places, my home is a calm, safe and secure place of rest. I pursue peace, I live free from sin and seek holiness in every area of my life. I receive the God of peace who takes away all confusion and disorder from my heart, my life. I guard my heart with the peace of God in Jesus. I control my thinking with God's peace, it rules over my decisions and judges all that I do. I am filled with peace through my faith in God, the Holy Spirit causes me to overflow with hope. I am equipped with God's peace, it prepares me with everything I need to do God's will. I have peace, not a worldly peace but an eternal peace, given to me by Jesus to calm my troubled heart. He is with me, He heals me and gives me real peace at all times. Peace dwells within me. I am peaceful in Jesus' name, Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI:

"Glory Be to the Father"

#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:

Mark 4:35-41

read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE:

"Jesus' Process For Peace"

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

* DOXOLOGY:

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

#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**

Holy One, with gratefulness we offer and dedicate these gifts for the continuation of our work in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG:** "When Peace Like a River" #428

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is by Michelle L. Torigian from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by Rev. Roberto Ochoa, Minister for Ethnic Inclusion, & Congregational Support for Rural and Small Churches for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith "The Peace Affirmation" from <https://gossipforjesus.com/2016/05/03/the-peace-affirmation/>.

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Organist: Antoina Rupert
Worship Leader: David Burrow
Pastor: Rev. Chris Burtnett
June Radio Sponsor: Helen Scuffham
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Birthdays: June 25-Vicki Merchlewitz; 26 Corbin Habeger; 28-Lance Zook

Sunday, June 23: 10:30am – Worship
Coffee

Tuesday, June 25: 9:30am- Pastor at Feed Mill
6:30pm.- Food Pantry Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 26: Special Congregational Meeting-ASK

Sunday, June 30: 10:30am – Worship
Coffee
2 pm.- Bridal Shower for Christine Burtnett

The June, July, and August issue of Our Daily Bread may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.

The annual Hospice of the Heartland Butterfly Release Memorial Program will be June 27th at 5pm. at Kossuth Regional Health Center.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*

165 Years

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