

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 14, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Before the earth was formed, we were chosen by God to be God's people.

Many: God gathers us together that we might sing of joy and hope, as God's beloved.

One: Before the stars glittered in the night sky, we were chosen through Jesus to be God's family.

Many: Jesus gathers us together that we might carol the good news of redemption.

One: Before the rivers flowed to the seas, we were chosen by the Spirit to serve creation.

Many: The Spirit gathers us together that we might dance in the fields of peace with our sisters, brothers, and siblings.

*Opening Song: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #71

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Holy One, we enter this time of worship with minds filled with the busyness of life. Help us shed the dust of our toils, relaxing in the knowledge that you claim us just as you promised. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We would sing praises to you, Composer of our lives, but we remember the harsh words we used toward a friend this week. We would learn your healing hymns of grace, but the broken chords of our anger and pain echo deep within us. We would dance in the circle of your love, but we recall how quickly we turned and ran when offered opportunities to serve your people.

Forgive us, Gifter of every blessing. Open our hearts and fill us with your mercy. Open our ears that we may hear the songs of grace you would teach us to share with the

world. Open our eyes that we may see the hope we have in Jesus, our Savior, our inheritance of love and joy.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Before the earth was shaped, God created the music of grace which sets our hearts, our souls, our feet to dancing with joy in the hope God has given to us.

Many: It is God who has created us, it is God who has redeemed us, and it is God who sends us forth to live as brothers and sisters of Christ. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 24

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (read together)

I am Joyful. I have strength in the Joy of God. I live a holy life filled with joy and pleasures at the right hand of God. I lift my life up to God and God gives me joy. I find my joy in the sanctuary of God. I have joy produced by the Holy Spirit within me. I sow tears and reap joyful singing. I have joy in the morning, weeping may last a night, but I shout for joy at dawn. I shout for joy for God has redeemed me, I sing praises to God's name. I sing for joy to God, my heart and flesh sing God's praises. I am still and rejoice in God, I am joyful in God my savior. God fills my lips with Joy, my heart is joyful for God has done great things for me. God satisfies me with gladness and makes me hear joy. God takes away my sadness and clothes me in joy. God creates things that make me joyful forevermore. God fills my heart with joy, God rescues and strengthens me. I am joyous for I have a great reward in Heaven. I am joyful for my hope is in God. I am joyful 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: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "Dancing Lessons!" 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, we thank you for the gifts of life and living. We give thanks by bringing our resources to community, to be shared and used for your kingdom, in our ministry, and for the world we inhabit. Bless and facilitate our generosity beyond our imagination. Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG:** "Lord of the Dance" #118

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Ephesians 3:1-14 Mark 6:14-19

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is by Sara Lambert from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2024* edited by B.J. Beu and Mary Scifres. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is *The Joy Affirmation* from **gossipforjesus**.

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Organist: Antoina Rupert
Worship Leader: David Burrow
Pastor: Rev. Chris Burtnett
July Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal
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Birthday's: July 15-Pam Burtnett; 18-Jeff Hines

Sunday, July 14: 10:30am – Worship
Coffee

Tuesday, July 16: 9:30am- Pastor at Feed Mill
7pm.-Board Meeting

Sunday, July 21: 10:30am – Worship
Coffee

August/September Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, July 30



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