

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
July 28, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: May every family in heaven and on earth gather in name and spirit.

Many: May God pour out courage and compassion on our congregation through the Spirit.

One: May our minds be open, that Jesus may dwell within. May our hearts receive the fullness of our faith.

Many: From generation to generation, God's grace is abundant!

One: Let's worship God.

*Opening Song:

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

#138

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Holy Spirit, meet us here. Find our spirits open and our hearts receptive to your word to us this day. With our songs and prayers, our witness and reflection, may we faithfully go where you call us to be. In the name of our brother Jesus, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wisdom's Heart: deep within, we know how we have failed to be your people. Our hardened hearts are closed to the love of Jesus; our lust for more and more blocks the fullness of your grace from transforming our lives; our trust in the powers of the world reveals our foolish nature.

Have mercy, God of every generation. Pour out the rich blessing of forgiveness on our parched souls. Feed us with Heaven's Bread, so we might be nourished by your gentleness. Shape us as your people, and restore us to faithful living, as we seek to follow our Savior, Jesus, in service to everyone we meet.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The wideness of God's mercy, the range of God's forgiveness, the infinite love of God, the Heart of hope which is never empty: all these gifts are ours, as God restores us to the fullness of life meant for us.

Many: Grounded in love, rooted in discipleship, we offer ourselves in service to others, recognizing the limitless grace which is ours to share in Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 3:14-21 from *Good News Bible*

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(read together)

We believe in God, Creator of all things, heavenly father and mother, of infinite love, wisdom and power, ruler of all that is and all that is to come.

We follow Jesus, God's chosen one, who loved and served humbly, who chose to die rather than kill for the sake of the healing of all Creation, and who was raised by God to new life. We believe that he calls us to humbly follow him and obediently serve him for the sake of proclaiming God's grace. We trust that he accompanies us and will help, guide, heal and defend us through all difficulty and suffering.

We believe the Holy Spirit guides us, empowers us and sustains us as servants of God's grace. We live as the body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness and the reality of resurrection, and the light of eternal life. 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:

John 6:1-21

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"A Drop in the Bucket?"

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**

God of abundance, receive and bless the offering we present this morning. May it reflect our sincerest hope that all may be filled with your fulness. In the name of the One who calls us, we pray. Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG:** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" #698

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: 2 Samuel 11:1-15, 2 Kings4:42-44

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Leigh Ann Shaw from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2024* edited by B.J. Beu and Mary Scifres. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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Organist:	Antonia Rupert
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Rev. Chris Burtnett
July Radio Sponsor:	Marilyn Deal

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Birthdays: August: 1-Marilyn Deal

Sunday, July 28: 10:30am – Worship
Coffee
ASK/Into the Future Meeting following Worship in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, July 30: 9:30am- Pastor at Feed Mill
Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, July 31: 1:15pm. -Mission & Memorial meeting at VBT

Sunday, August 4: 10:30am – Worship -Sacrament of Communion
Coffee
Food Pantry

Led By the Spirit - 10 Reflections from Our Daily Bread may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.



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