

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
"Where No One Is A Stranger"  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 15, 2024

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

Many: We love the Holy One, who has heard our cry, responds to our prayers, and abides with us through our distress.

One: Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

Many: We praise the Righteous One, who protects, provides, and prepares their people.

One: Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

Many: We worship the Radiant One, who walks before us in the land of the living.

\*Opening Song: "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" #31

### \*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Creator, we have come in response to your call to worship you. We have come to be in community with our neighbor. We have come with quiet contemplation and boisterous joy. We have come in grief and with hope. We come to gather in your name, to honor your presence, and to give you praise. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Spring of Wisdom, we confess that we have not denied ourselves and followed. We turn our backs on your outstretched hands of grace, and stumble into the arms of the world. We speak poisonous gossip about others, rather than tell of their glory as your child. We fire off words that find no rest until they pierce another's heart.

Forgive us, Rock and Redeemer. Give us speech which flows like cool water through another's parched spirit; give us silence with which to witness your wonders; give us words to proclaim Jesus our Savior, the One who leads us to life.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: With gentleness, God speaks to us; with graciousness, God forgives us; with joy, God embraces us.

Many: With our lips, we praise God; with our words, we thank God; with our silence, we find God in our hearts. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 19

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (read together)

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

We follow Jesus, God's chosen one, who loved and served humbly, who healed the broken and included the outcast, who chose to suffer rather than harm for the sake of the healing of all Creation, who gave his life for our redemption, and who was raised by God to new life. In his teaching, in his death and resurrection, and in his presence with us in all circumstances, he reveals God to us. He calls us to 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 sustains us, and guides us and empowers 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: Proverbs 1:20-33 read from *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "Wisdom Calls" 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**

Generous God, may these gifts honor your name and your generous Spirit alive within us. We thank you for the opportunity and privilege of contributing to your kingdom and our world.

**\* CLOSING SONG:** "God of Grace and God of Glory" #569

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

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: James 3:1-1, Mark8:27-37

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication are 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 **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  
September Radio Sponsor: Shelly and Todd TerHark  
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Birthdays: September 19-Kathryn Myers

**Sunday**, September 15: 10:30am – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

**Tuesday**, September 17: 9:30am. -Pastor at Feed Mill

**Thursday**, September 19: 10am.- Clergy Cluster in Humboldt

**Sunday**, September 22: 10:30am – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

4pm.- Peace Service Peace Pole Gathering with ice cream to follow

**Today:** 7am-12:30pm, -Flight Breakfast Free will donation

**Sunday**, September 29: ASK Meeting after worship in Fellowship Hall

Mark your calendars for Wednesday. October 9: 7pm. -Associate Conference Minister Kendy Miller will be here to help us with our ASK process. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The September, October, November issue of Our Daily Bread and the Led By the Spirit - 10 Reflections of Our Daily Bread may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.

Our cookie supply is getting low. If anyone is doing any baking and would like to share some bars or cookies, that would be great. Thank you.



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