

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
"Where No One Is A Stranger"  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 22, 2024

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

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

One: Our world offers many wide avenues and beautiful boulevards to walk;

**Many: Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.**

One: Our society suggests we put down our roots in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

**Many: Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope, watered by the rivers of joy and grace.**

One: Our culture promotes achievement, success, climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

**Many: Our God tells us if we want to be first we need to go to the end of the line.**

One: Let's worship our God, who calls us to live as faithful disciples.

\*Opening Song: "Come, Let Us Praise the Lord" #9

### \*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Holy Stream of Righteousness-as we embrace the dawn of this week and the reemergence of hope in our lives, we sing your praises. As we face the journey before us, we seek your wisdom and your strength. Erase the envy from our minds and the biases from our hearts, as we enter this space. Fill our lives with the refreshing brooks of your peace. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess how much we are like those first disciples of Jesus, Wisdom from on high. Our cravings for more and more toss us about like leaves in the fall winds. We boast of our great wisdom, yet do not understand your ways of peace and gentleness. We do not plant ourselves in your hope and grace, and so reap harvests of disorder and conflict. Draw near to us, Gracious God, and forgive us. Draw us into your tender arms, and

teach us peace, gentleness, the willingness to put the other first, the wisdom to serve instead of seize, so we might bring forth a harvest of righteousness, justice, and peace in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: This is the wisdom from above: God plants in us the forgiveness and healing we need, so we might share the good harvest of joy and mercy with everyone we meet.

**Many: Bathed in the living waters, fed by the Bread of life, we are given new life and hope. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 9:30-37

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

**We believe in God, maker of all things, provider of all things, who loves all people.**

**We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us: he sees us for who we are, heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new. In his death and resurrection we see the deepest truth of life.**

**We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us for self-giving love.**

**We give thanks for the Church, the Body of Christ, and for the gift of forgiveness, the power of resurrection and the mystery 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: James 3: 13-4:1-3, 7-8a read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "A Reputation for Wisdom" 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

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all the gifts we receive from you and pray you receive our gifts for your kingdom. May they be a blessing and gift in our extended community and the world. Amen.

\* **CLOSING SONG:** "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" #575

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

**POSTLUDE**

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1

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 Michelle Torigian from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2024* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. 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 (adapted) is by Steve Gamaas 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 26-Derek Person

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

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

**Tuesday**, September 24: 9:30am. -Pastor at Feed Mill  
2pm.-International Delight Meel Meeting  
7pm.- Board Meeting  
Newsletter Deadline

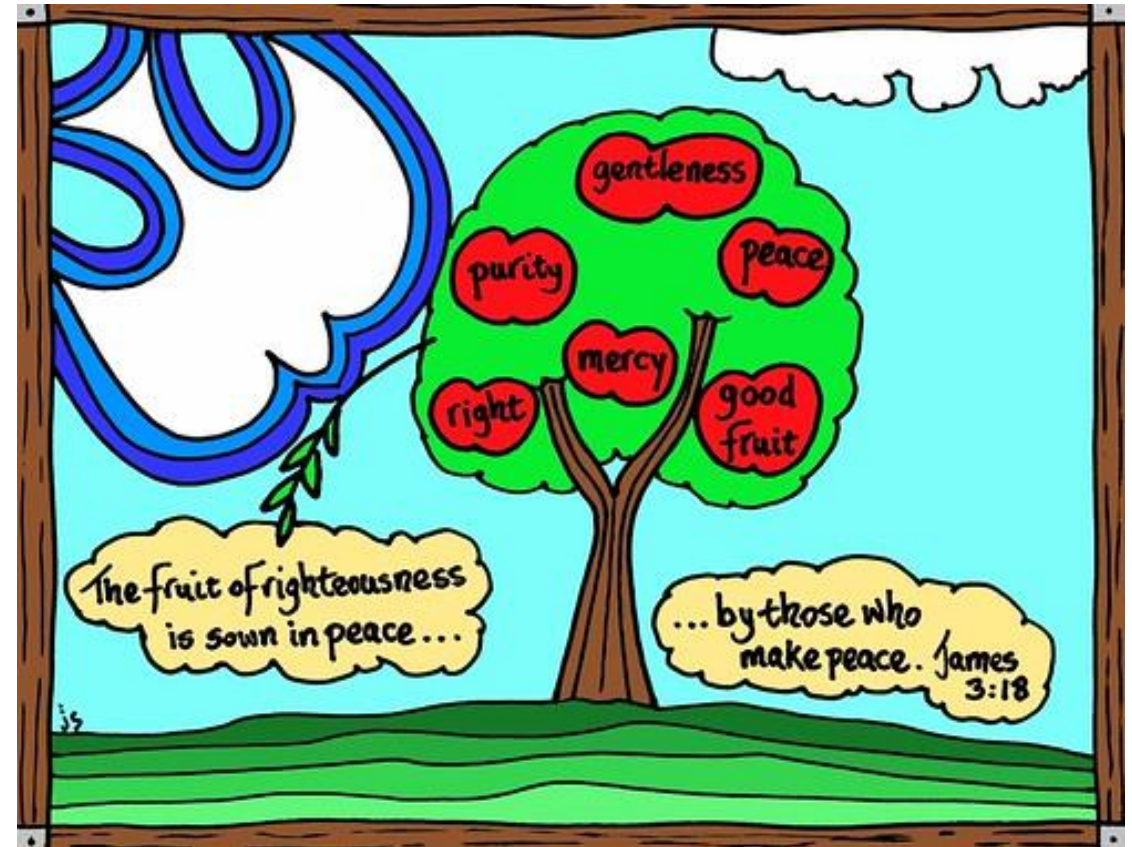
**Thursday**, September 26-Saturday 28: Tri-Conference Meeting in Omaha

**Sunday**, September 29: 10:30am – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee  
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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