

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 29, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We gather to worship.

Many: We gather to praise!

One: May our prayers extend beyond ourselves.

Many: May our praise rise to the heavens!

One: May our lives be salty with love.

Many: May our prayers be reflections of peace!

One: Let's worship God!

*Opening Song:

“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

#56

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Faithful God, inspire us to be faithful to one another. Open our hearts to meet the needs in our midst and in the wider world. Open our minds to notice the beauty and gift of your creation. Open our mouths to sing your blessings, joyfully and gratefully. Open our lives to welcome the stranger, seek the lost, and create peace in a troubled world. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Called to be your people, Living God - why do we find it so hard to answer? You ask us to speak out against injustice, and we whisper because we are afraid someone might hear us. You ask us to see the pain and poverty around us, but we close our eyes. You tell us that each and every one of us is created in your image, yet we persist in noticing the differences between us and others.

Forgive us, God of the Past and Creator of the Future. May we be the ones who go out

into the world, bearing your gifts of peace, of hope, of healing, of joy to everyone who is broken, even as we have been made whole through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Touched by the healing hands of Jesus, filled with the grace of our God, led by the compassion of the Holy Spirit, our hearts are opened and we discover we are forgiven and at peace with God.

Many: Those who are created to love the unlovable; those who are created to bear grace; those who are created to embrace all people: we receive our forgiveness, giving thanks to our God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:

James 5:13-20

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(read together)

We belong to God, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come.

We follow Jesus, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives, and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised again by God, and reigns over all Creation; and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world.

We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the Body of Christ, God's holy universal church.

We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of resurrection and the reality of eternal life. In all things it is our desire to follow Jesus, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. 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 9:38-50

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

“Cut it Out!”

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**

As you have blessed us, Gracious God, bless the gifts we return to you now. May our offerings bless your world with love and salt your world with peace. Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG:** "Trust and Obey" #443

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10;9:20-22 and Psalm 124

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2024* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. 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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Sunday, September 29: 10:30am – Worship
 Sunday School
 Coffee
 ASK Meeting after worship in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 1: 9:30am. - Pastor at Feed Mill
 6pm. - Pilgrim Hight Board Meeting by Zoom

Wednesday, October 2: 7pm.- Special Board Meeting

Sunday, October 6: 10:30am – Worship- World Communion Sunday
 Sunday School
 Coffee
 Neighbors in Need Offering
 Food Pantry

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.

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.



*First Congregational
 United Church of Christ
 166 Years
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