

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion/Neighbors in Need Sunday
October 6, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: God's steadfast love is before our eyes.

Many: Help us move in faithfulness.

One: When tests and trials come- when evil itself appears-

Many: we place our trust in God, Knower of joy and suffering.

One: May God help us move with integrity.

Many: Place us on level ground, God, our redeemer.

One: Let's sing songs of thanksgiving and praise!

Many: We will proclaim God's wondrous deeds!

*Opening Song:

"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

#138

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Gracious God, through whom all things exist, we are mindful this day of siblings in faith around the world. We rejoice in our oneness with them. We are mindful, too, of those near at hand and those far away-those who suffer from ills and calamities, from wars and disasters. Be present with them and us, we pray-even as you fix our hearts on you and how we might, in faith, respond to the needs of neighbors around the world. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We confess, God of every person, how easy it is to think that our way of being your church is the one, true way. And so, we believe we have no reason to hear your name spoken in another language. We are sure we don't need to learn songs that have tunes which sound dissonant to us. We believe that our baptism, our communion, our beliefs are the ones closest to your heart, and so we close our hearts, eyes, and hands to those around us.

Forgive us, Gracious God, and have mercy. Remind us that while there may be many types of bread, there is that one Love which has been broken for us. Remind us that while there might be wine or juice offered, there is one Life which has been poured out for us. Remind us that while some remain seated, some come forward, and others dance, there is one Table, offered to us by your grace, through Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Savior. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: In little churches with wide open windows, in ancient buildings echoing with the songs and prayers of generations, in buildings that do not look like sanctuaries, the same good news is proclaimed: God is love. And that love forgives us, redeems us, restores us.

Many: In whatever language, in every tongue and dialect, we rejoice and give thanks.

We are forgiven by our God of grace and wonder. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 26

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

inside back cover of hymnal

(read together)

*GLORIA PATRI

#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

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

"Dealing With Adversaries"

Pastor Chris

Communion Song:

"One Bread, One Body"

#689

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer (debtors/debtors), Sharing the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

God of new life, with joy we have received this bread and cup, giving you thanks for Jesus, our peace and our hope. Unite your church throughout the world in continuing

his ministry of love and servanthood, that your name may be praised in all the earth. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** #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 God, creator of this and many other worlds, bless these gifts in Jesus' name, that they may aid a world of need, near and far. Amen.

***Closing Song:** "Children of the Heavenly Father" #83

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Hebrews 1:12-16 and Mark 10:2-31

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are by Hans Holznagel from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2024* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The **Call to Confession**, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is by Ruth C. Duck from *Bread for the Journey-Resources for Worship*, edited by Ruth C. Duck.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
October Radio Sponsor:	Larry and Sandy Person

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Birthdays: October: 9-Andy Burtnett; 10-Skyland Meraz; 11-David Burrow; 12 Misty Bachman

Sunday, October 6: 10:30am – Worship - World Communion Sunday

Sunday School

Coffee

Neighbors in Need Offering/Food Pantry

Monday, October 7: 5-7pm.- International Delight Meal - Mexican Night.

Tuesday, October 8: 9:30am. - Pastor at Feed Mill

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

Thursday, October 10: 8:30am.- Ministerial Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 13: 10:30am – Worship / Sunday School / Coffee.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
166 Years*

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