

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is A Stranger”  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 20, 2025

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS+

**\*Call to Worship** (read responsively)

One: God has called us to this place. What do you see?

**Many: We see people who model for us God's joyous embrace of all people.**

One: God has brought us to this place. What do you hear?

**Many: We hear God's hope that we are able to see each person as our sister, brother, sibling.**

One: God has challenged us to open our lives and hearts to others. What will you do?

**Many: We will do only one thing: welcome everyone in God's name!**

One: Let’s worship God!

**\*Opening Song:** “Come and Find the Quiet Center” #477

**\*OPENING PRAYER** (prayed together)

Abiding God, we invite you to inhabit our space. We long to renew our minds, restore our souls, and rest our presence before you. Still, we bring the burdens we carry into this gathering. We hold our responsibilities, cares, and concerns. Let us bind ourselves in your love and strength and the community of faithful and curious. We affirm that this time with you and one another equips and fortifies us for the journey and helps us discern the better way. Be glorified in our worship. Be honored by our praise. Be known by your people, O Creator, Teacher, and Friend. In your many names, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the mirror we call scripture, Revealing God, we see ourselves for who we are and are not. We whine about those who are not doing what we think they should, and ignore our

failings. We speak words which nibble away at the life in our family and friends. We step over the poor on our way to get more and more, ignoring their needs. Forgive us, Reconciling Love. Sit us down at Jesus' feet, so we may learn the balanced life you intend for us. Then, and only then, we can set aside our grudges, to offer our gifts to our neighbors; we can stop licking at our hurts, to bring healing to others; we can reach out and welcome our sisters, brothers, and siblings even as we have been welcomed into your heart through Jesus, our Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Jesus comes to reconcile is to God, so we can be reconciled to one another. Recreated in God's image, we are made whole.

**Many: When we are in Christ, everything becomes new. Our past is just that - our past! Thanks be to God! We will go forth and live as reconciled people. Amen.**

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 52

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

We believe in truth as a living Reality, not captured in theory or a creed, but revealed to those who love; the truth of Jesus, the Spirit of truth, the truth of God. Because we believe we trust, not blindly but open eyed and bold as a child climbing into a mother’s lap; the truth of Jesus, the Spirit of truth, the truth of God. Because we believe we serve, not as a slave that serves a tyrant but like farmers reaping a harvest; the truth of Jesus, the Spirit of truth, the truth of God.

**\* 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:** Luke 10:38-42 read from the *New English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “Distracted” Pastor Chris

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER** (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

July 30: August/September Newsletter deadline

