

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 27, 2025

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS+

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

One: It is in this place of holiness that we can come with our fears, our doubts, all the questions of our hearts.

Many: We come to this place, to hear the words of peace, of hope, of joy God speaks to us.

One: It is in this place of discovery that we can come searching.

Many: We come to this place, to find the One who has been looking for us.

One: It is in this place of openness that we can come knocking.

Many: We come to this place, to be embraced by the One whose heart is never locked.

***Opening Song:** “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” #138

***OPENING PRAYER** (prayed together)

One Who Is Holy, make us like new, show us your way, teach us to pray with our hearts and our hands. Give us the word today that we need to know you. Give us hope today to be a beacon in a world full of lost and confused. Give us joy today to make your name known. Give us peace today to respond with courage, fortitude, and conviction. Give us love today to love as you have loved us. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We do not find it easy to speak of how we do not live as your people, but you invite us to share our weaknesses and failures with you, Inviting God. Tempted to think your salvation is for a select few, we put up barriers for others. Clinging to all you give to us, we are reluctant to share with those in need. Surrounded by evil and violence, we find it

easier to close ranks with those just like us, rather than seeking peace and reconciliation for our world.

Forgive us, Salvation's God. Open our eyes to our sisters, brothers, and siblings all around us. Open our ears to the word of hope you speak to us. Open our spirits to the presence of Jesus, our Savior, who flings wide the open doors of your kingdom, that all might find life with you. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Here is the good news, my friends: Jesus came searching for us, calling us by name, leading us into God's kingdom.

Many: In Jesus, we become new people: broken, we are made whole; lost, we are found; forsaken, we are restored to new life. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Colossians 2:6-15 *Common English Bible*

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

We trust in God, Spirit of life, Creator of all that is and all that is to come; who surrounds us and fills us; who speaks the Word of life in us; and so we listen.

We listen to Jesus, Revealer of God, our brother and teacher; who lived in prayer and in love.

Listening to God’s voice and doing God’s will, he gave his life in love; but God raised him to life that is eternal; and so we follow him.

We follow in the power of the Holy Spirit, God alive in us, for the sake of the healing of the world.

We trust in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, the gift of the universal Church as the body of Christ, 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: Luke 11:1-13 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Knock, Knock!” Pastor Chris

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

*** 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.

Our God in Glory, may the good gifts we bring of time, talent, and treasure be used and magnified for the benefit of your beloved. Thank you, Holy One, for enabling us to join in your kingdom come on earth. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” #132

*Going Forth with the Peace of Christ

POSTLUDE

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

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnass-Holmes.

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Organist/Pianist: Alicia Miller

Worship Leader: David Burrow

Pastor: Rev. Chris Burtnett

July Radio Sponsor: Kris & Mick Schlievert

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Birthdays: August 1: Marilyn Deal

Sunday, July 27: 10:30am – Worship
Coffee

Tuesday, July 29: 9:30am. - Pastor at Feed Mill.

Wednesday, July 30: August/September Newsletter Deadline

Friday, August 1: 9:15am.-Care Center Worship

Sunday, August 3: 10:30am: Worship
Coffee

Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00 - 7:45 PM- English classes meet in the Community Connections Center.



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United Church of Christ
167 Years*
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