



Faith
UNITED CHURCH of Christ

Sunday, October 1, 2023
18th Sunday after Pentecost
10:15 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Ted Brelsford | Pastor
Rev. Gary Burdick | Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Ruth Foley | Music Director

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Time of Silent Preparation

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Rev. Kayti Dean

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God, all creation speaks volumes of God's handiwork.
All: Each sunrise proclaims God's faithfulness and the night reveals the Creator's awe.
One: Without a word being spoken, all creation bears witness to the goodness of the Lord.
All: So, too, may we join in witness with all creation. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be harmonious in God's hearing.

INVOCATION

*HYMN *This is My Father's World* Gray, #384

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion and mercy,
we are your wounded and wounding children.
We bring our wounded selves, our divided society, our broken world,
seeking your healing, and seeking your grace.
It is easy for us to point the finger at others,
yet we know we all need your forgiveness.
Forgive us, we pray.
And forgive those we have called enemies.
Break down the walls that separate and divide us,
and open a way for us to reach one another in truth and love.
Help us to remember we belong to each other,
even as we belong to you.
Help us to share our gifts in mutual respect,
and seek the love you offer us all,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2:1-13

² Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature ^[a] God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature ^[b] of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

ANTIPHONAL READING

Psalms 19:1-10

The heavens declare the glory of God;

the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;

night after night they reveal knowledge.

They have no speech, they use no words;

no sound is heard from them.

Yet their voice ^[b] goes out into all the earth,

their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,

like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens

and makes its circuit to the other;

nothing is deprived of its warmth.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

**The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.**

The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.

**The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.

**The decrees of the Lord are firm,
and all of them are righteous.**

They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;

**they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.**

SCRIPTURE READING John 17:20-23

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

SERMON “That They May Become One”

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and LORD’S PRAYER

***HYMN** *Bread of the World in Mercy Broken* Gray #774

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**(*Faith UCC Statement of Faith*)

“WE BELIEVE IN YOU, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

YOU CALL the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each
one the ways of life and death.

YOU SEEK in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

YOU JUDGE people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and
apostles.

IN JESUS CHRIST, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to
us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to
yourself.

YOU BESTOW upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

YOU CALL us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

YOU PROMISE to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

BLESSING AND HONOR, GLORY AND POWER BE UNTO YOU. Amen.”

***HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation

Prayer of Praise and Blessing

Great Thanksgiving (Congregational responses in bold)

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. /

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God...

... Therefore, we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior ...

... O God, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Partaking Together

*When the usher comes to your row, those who wish to partake should come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. **The pastor will place a wafer in the palm of your hand and then you may take a cup from the tray.** Sealed Communion packets are available to take back to your seat if you prefer. Grapes and crackers are available for children at the table to your left of the pulpit.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all nations, we give you thanks for this feast of your goodness and grace. As you have nourished us in Christ Jesus, send us forth to feed and serve others—sharing your peace and showing your faithful love in the world; through Jesus Christ, bread of life for all.

*HYMN *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* Gray #518, vs. 1,2,4

*GIFTS and OFFERINGS *There is an offering plate on the table. May God bless the missions of our church and the needs of the world through the gifts of our resources.*

You may now give via PayPal, using QR code:



***DOXOLOGY**

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING** *Shalom to You*

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.

May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be you shalom, Christ be your shalom.

***POSTLUDE**

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

For peace in this country and the world, for our military, for all who are at war, and those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. For those whose needs we do not know. For Chuck Barrett, Bill Bates, Vickie Bieger, Sue Cook, Gary Cook, Eleanor Cornwall, Mary Beth Dauer, Stephen Dearth, Shay Decinney, Judy Delia, Barb Fink, Louise Forney, Pat Granville, Jim Henry, Marcia Herren, Scot Kish, Eleanor Kraft, Carol Mueller, Zenia & Zach Munger Family, Phyllis Potter, Claudia Renzi, Chuck & Sheila Recktenwalt, Loretta Rishel, Tom & Marilyn Rucker, Joe Ryan, Sally Schutt, Fred Shear, Linda & Mike Smerka, Janet Taber, Bob Tills, and Joyce Whittemore.

For Those in the Military: Zachary Braun, Justin Buczek, Teegan Partridge, Cadan Skinner, Jamie-Lynn Smerka, Joe Solak, Mark Solak, Aaron Wellman and Mark Williams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There are new photo directories available for each family to pick up in the narthex. Thank you to Gail Berger for doing the photos and layout, and to Kevin Biddle for getting them printed.
- Following worship on October 15 there will be hands-on CPR training at 11:30 am om the fellowship hall.

There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on October 22 for the purpose of reviewing and approving the budget for 2024.

OPERATING BUDGET INCOME & EXPENSES

Average weekly operating expenses: \$ 2,436.00

Offering collection for Sept.17 2023: \$ 675.00

Current: \$660.75 Benevolent: \$ 15.00

Attendance Sept. 24, 2023: 48