



**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**First United Church of Christ**  
**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation**  
**October 31, 2021, 10:30 a.m.**

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

**Prelude** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Johann Kittel (1732-1809)

### Welcome and Announcements

**Testimony** Richard Crouter

**Gathering Music** *Come, Let Us Worship God* Ray Makeever (1983)  
(join in as directed)

### Call to Worship

One: We celebrate that, all around us, blue sky and golden land are clothed in autumn beauty.

**Many: We rejoice in God's natural bounty and the ingathering of our lives.**

One: We praise God for all we have received, like maple leaves dancing and crisp breezes blowing.

**Many: We praise God for all we have received, like a community that values us and our questions.**

One: We praise God for all we can give, like a helping hand and a listening ear.

**Many: We praise God for all we can give, like tithes and offerings to support our vision and our dreams.**

One: We celebrate that, all around us, our hopes are clothed in joy.

**Many: We rejoice in the bounty of love and the ingathering of our hearts.**

**Opening Hymn** *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing* (v1-4) NCH #17 (Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

v1 To you, O God, all creatures sing,  
and all creation, everything  
sings your praises, alleluia!  
Your burning sun with golden beam,  
your silver moon with softer gleam  
sing your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

v2 Your wind that blows the tempest by,  
your clouds that sail across the sky  
sing your praises, alleluia!  
Your morning rises with a song,  
and lights of evening sing along,  
sing your praises, alleluia,

v3 Your flowing waters, crystal clear,  
make melodies for you to hear,  
sing your praises, alleluia!  
Your fire, bountiful and bright,  
remembering your warmth and light,  
sings your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
v4 To you, O God, day after day,  
your planet earth in every way  
sings your praises, alleluia,  
As savory fruit and fragrant flower  
show forth your glory and your power,

singing praises, alleluia,

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### Time With Children

**Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.**

**All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.**

### Anthem

*A Mighty Fortress*

arr. Carl Schalk (1966)

A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing,  
Our shelter he amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great,  
And armed with cruel hate;  
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,  
Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the valiant one,  
Whom God himself elected.  
Ask ye, who is this?  
Jesus Christ it is,  
Of Sabaoth Lord,  
And there's none other God;  
He holds the field forever.

### Scripture

Mark 12:28-34

Bob Bruce and Mandy Everhart

### Sermon

Rev. Cindy Maddox

### Prayer Hymn

*What Gift Can We Bring?*

NCH #370 (Anniversary Song)

v1 What gift can we bring,  
what present, what token?  
What words can convey it,  
the joy of this day?  
When grateful we come,  
remembering, rejoicing,  
what song can we offer  
in honor and praise?

v3 Give thanks for tomorrow,  
full of surprises,  
for knowing whatever  
tomorrow may bring,  
The Word is our promise  
always, forever;  
we rest in God's keeping  
and live in God's love.

v2 Give thanks for the past,  
for those who had vision,  
who planted and watered  
so dreams could come true.  
Give thanks for the now,  
for study, for worship,  
for mission that bids us  
turn prayer into deed.

v4 This gift we now bring,  
this present, this token,  
these words can convey it,  
the joy of this day!  
When grateful we come,  
rememb'ring, rejoicing,  
this song we now offer  
in honor and praise!

## The Prayers

*We will begin with prayers in song, then a minister will pray, and there will be time for silent prayer. Then we will sing again. All joining worship on Zoom are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.*

## Sung Response

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,  
Many: **God, let your spirit move in us.**

## Prayer of Jesus

*You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with the version here:*

**Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Offertory

*Farmers' Earth Psalm*

Malcolm Williamson (1976)

Thou visitest the earth and blessest it:  
Thou makest it very plenteous.

The river of god is full of water:  
Thou preparest their corn, for so thou providest for the earth.  
Thou waterest her furrows, thou sendest rain into the little valleys thereof:  
Thou makest it soft with the drops of rain, and blessest the increase of it.  
Thou crownest the year with thy goodness:  
And thy clouds drop fatness.  
They shall drop upon the dwellings of the wilderness:  
And the little hills shall rejoice on every side.  
The folds shall be full of sheep:  
The valleys also shall stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing.

(Psalm 65:9-14, from the Book of Common Prayer)

## Prayer of Thanks & Dedication

## Hymn of Sending

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

Alice Parker

Ben Reister, trumpet

Join in as directed!

Verse 1: **Thanks be to God.**

Verse 2: **God's will is done.**

Verse 3: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Piet Post (1919-1979)

**We are so glad you worshiped here today!**

**Zoom breakout rooms are available for friendship and conversation after the service. Whether you attended in person or online, you're invited after worship to a time of fellowship on the church lawn.**

**We hope you will stay!**

## **News to Note**

### **Worship Information**

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. in person on Sundays, no registration required. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here! Are you visiting today? [Fill out our virtual visitor card.](#)

### **Giving to the Church**

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. Give online by visiting [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org) and clicking the "Give Now!" button under the "Giving" tab, or send in your gifts via mail.

### **News & Announcements**

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! [Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter](#), and find First UCC on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org).

### **This Week at First UCC**

Monday, November 1

**11 a.m. Google Drive Orientation/Training (Zoom)**

Tuesday, November 2

**6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Assembly Room)**

Wednesday, November 3

**7 p.m. CONNECT Group (Assembly Room)**

**7-8:15 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)**

Thursday, November 4

**10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Knitting Group (Assembly Room)**

Saturday, November 6

**9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Electronics Recycling (200 Orchard St S)**

Sunday, November 7

**10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship; All Saints Sunday**

**11:45 a.m. New Member Orientation (Assembly Room)**

### **Commitment Sunday**

Today is Commitment Sunday! We celebrate this faith community's abundant gifts. If you haven't yet turned in your 2022 Estimate of Giving, you still can! Estimate of giving cards are located at the back of the sanctuary, or fill out the estimate of giving form on the First UCC website:

<https://firstucc.org/giving/estimate-giving/>

Your time and talents are also a gift! Consider filling out the 2021 Volunteer Survey to let First UCC know how you are willing to share and serve. [Fill out the survey here.](#)

Join in friendship, conversation, and celebratory treats on the church lawn after worship today!

### **Join a CONNECT Group this Fall**

Two new CONNECT groups are starting up soon, [and you're invited to join!](#) These small groups for adults are offered periodically for 6-8 weeks at a time. Sign up at <https://firstucc.org/connect/>

7pm on Wednesday evenings (Nov. 3, 10, 17, Dec. 1, 8, 15), co-facilitated by Mary Carlson and Judy Bond

4:30pm on Wednesday afternoons (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26) facilitated by Erin Barnett

### **New Member Orientation November 7 @ 11:45 a.m.**

An orientation for new members will be held after worship on Sunday, November 7, in the Assembly Room in preparation for New Member Sunday on November 21. We hope that those of you who have not officially become members of First UCC yet will plan to join us! Even if you didn't sign up to come, join us!

### **Google Drive Orientation/Training, November 1 @ 11 a.m.**

Are you on a First UCC committee, team, or task force that has a Google shared drive or uses Google Drive to collaborate? Are you simply a church member who uses Google Drive, but has questions about how it works? Director of Communications & Operations Green Bouzard is offering an online training on Google Drive and the Google Workplace Suite on Monday, November 1 at 11 a.m. [Join here.](#) Passcode: 1stUCC

### **Operation Joy**

Operation Joy, a community-wide gift sharing program of the Community Action Center (CAC), is set to take place on December 8, 2021! Through the generosity of hundreds of individual donors and dedicated volunteers, approximately 900 Northfield area children from 350 households will receive gifts through Operation Joy this year. The best way to support this goal is through monetary donations. Donate online at [communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy](http://communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy)

### **ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)**

World leaders meet next week to press forward on fighting climate change at the global level. Join ISAIAH and other climate partners for the 100% Campaign, a virtual retreat focusing on what we can do at the state level heading into the next legislative session. The virtual retreat is Nov. 6-8 (11/6 from 6:30-8 pm; 11/7 from 9am-3 pm; 11/8 from 10 am - noon). [Register here.](#) Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email [isaiah@firstucc.org](mailto:isaiah@firstucc.org).

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*For the Fruit of All Creation* by Alice Parker, text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, music © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.

### **First UCC Leadership & Staff**

**Ministers:** All the people

**Moderator:** Sam Steinberg

**Senior Minister:** Rev. Cindy Maddox

**Minister for Congregational Life:** Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

**Director of Music:** Chris Brunelle

**Organist:** Theo Wee

**Director of Communications & Operations:** Green Bouzard

**Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator:** Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

**Sexton:** Mark Fischer

### **Thanks to this Week's Leaders**

**Ushers:** Lois Langerak, Gary Wagenbach, Linda Wagenbach, Linda Larson, Jeffrey Latterell

**Welcome & Testimony:** Richard Crouter

**Reader:** Mandy Everhart and Bob Bruce

**Digital Zoom Host:** Shawn Nuebel

**Tech Team:** Extraordinary Youth!

**Worship Arts:** Linda Gagnon