



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

First United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation

July 18, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

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

Prelude

Adagio

Roger Nyquist

Testimony and Welcome

Anne Meyer Ruppel

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Call to Worship

after Psalm 96

One: O sing to God a new song.

Many: Let the sea and everything in it sing God's praise.

One: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice;

Many: the sea and everything in it shout praise!

One: Let the fields and their crops burst forth with joy.

Many: Let the trees of the forest rustle with praise before God.

One: Sing to God, all the earth.

Many: For great is God and greatly to be praised.

Opening Hymn

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

#459, Nettleton

V1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

V2 Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
Came to resume me from danger,
blessed body, precious blood.

V3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Time With Children

God's word is for all God's children; come gather, come gather.
You're never too old for stories; come listen, come listen.

Scripture	2 Corinthians 5: 17-21	Carol Rutz
Sermon		Rev. Robert Griggs
Prayer Hymn	<i>Eternal Spirit of the Living God</i>	#520, Sursum Corda

V1 Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
And only you can teach me how to pray.

V2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
Help me to see your purpose and your will,
Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

V3 Come with the vision and the strength I need
to serve my God, and all humanity;
Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured -
my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.

The Prayers

We will pray in four parts. First, we will breathe. Second, we will offer prayers for the world, for the people we love, for the concerns we have. Third, we will offer prayers of thanks and gratitude. Finally, we will pray the Prayer of Jesus. In between we will sing. You are invited to share prayers with the congregation by vocalizing in the Sanctuary or online using the Zoom chat function.

Sung Response

More Than We Can Ask
(based on Ephesians 3:20)

Refrain: **More than we can ask, more than we can ask, more than we can ask or imagine.**

One: Hear, o hear our prayer. Many: **Hear, o hear our prayer.**

Prayer of Jesus

New Zealand Book of Prayer

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

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe; the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world; your heavenly will be done by all created beings; your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Sung Amen

Offertory

Meditation from Symphony No.1, Op. 13

C.M. Widor (1844-1937)

Prayer of Thanks

For all of the gifts we have and share, for all of the ways you are working for good, Holy One, we give you thanks. May all that is gathered today bless you and the world you love so much. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Now Thank We All Our God
(English verses only)

#419, Nun danket

V1 Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms,
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

V2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

V3 All praise and thanks to God
our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too,
our help in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Benediction

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in G

Gene Janssen (1940-)

**We are so glad you worshiped here today!
Zoom breakout rooms will be available for fellowship after the service.
We hope you will stay!**

News to Note

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Recently, First UCC returned to full capacity worship in the sanctuary, with 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 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.

This Week at First UCC

Sunday, July 18

6 p.m. Fighting Apostles vs. Emmaus (Babcock Park)

Tuesday, July 20

3-5 p.m. Pastor Lauren Office Hours (Bridge Square)

Wednesday, July 21

6 p.m. Trustees Meeting

Saturday, July 24

2 p.m. Mary Cay Longley Memorial Service

Sunday, July 25

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship

Church Email Unavailable Monday, July 19; *NEW* Email Addresses for Staff

First UCC will be updating its email client system on Monday, July 19. Email may be temporarily unavailable on Monday, so if you need to get in touch, please call the church office. After the email update, there will be different emails at which you may reach First UCC staff. Please use these new email addresses moving forward, updating your email contacts to the following:

Pastor Wendy Vander Hart: seniorminister@firstucc.org

Pastor Lauren Baske Davis: associateminister@firstucc.org

Chris Brunelle, Director of Music: musicdirector@firstucc.org

Theo Wee, Organist: organist@firstucc.org

Bob Gregory-Bjorklund: worshiparts@firstucc.org

Green Bouzard, Director of Communications & Operations: church@firstucc.org (no change)

Mark Fischer, Sexton: sexton@firstucc.org

ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

"Here and now, we can be the beloved community. There is room at the table for everyone" (Carrie Newcomer, "Room at the Table"). Please help us in living this creed! Learn next steps by attending the ISAIAH Northfield Area Summit Tuesday, July 27, 6-8 p.m. in person at a shelter in a park still to be determined. We'll "debrief...celebrate how we've led together, discuss what's emerged from the legislative session and what's left undone, and then equip ourselves for a season of deep listening and local issue work." So that organizers know numbers, [please register online](#). Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

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The Waterfall (1909) by Wassily Kandinsky, 1866-1944; Public Domain; Yale University Art Gallery

First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Sam Steinberg

Interim Senior Minister: Wendy Vander Hart

Minister for Congregational Life: 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: Anne Meyer Ruppel, Kris Felbeck, Kathy Sandberg,
Nalani McCutcheon, Linda Larson

Testimony & Welcome: Anne Meyer Ruppel

Reader: Carol Rutz

Worship Leaders: Mary Caroline Henry, Carol Rutz, Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Guest Preacher: Rev. Robert Griggs

Special Musician: Mary Carlsen

Digital Zoom Host: Betsy Barrett

Tech Team: Reister Family