



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
September 26, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

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

Prelude *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Johann Walther (1684-1707)

Welcome and Testimony Dan Sullivan

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music *The Kingdom of God* Austin C. Lovelace (1985)
Refrain: It is like the kingdom of God and a mystery.

Call to Worship adapted from Carol Penner

One: We gather in hope for the road ahead,

Many: which is unknown, stretching before us.

One: Fill us with a burning compassion

Many: for our siblings in the world, near and far.

One: Give us your love that will not let us go,
and fill our hearts with courage:

**Many: to to give boldly,
to love simply,
to hope deeply,
and to risk greatly.**

One: Now and into each day ahead,

Many: we will worship and live into your love.

Opening Hymn *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* NCH #119 (Morning Song)

v1 My soul gives glory to my God.
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
In many marvelous ways.

v3 From age to age, to all who fear,
Such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near,
Dismissing selfish hearts.

v2 My God has done great things for me:
Yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed,
And blessings they shall claim.

v4 Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
Promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied,
The rich seem suddenly poor.

v5 Praise God, whose loving covenant
Supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises
With present faithfulness.

Time With Children

All your children shall be taught by God, and they shall have peace. (Isaiah 54:13)

Anthem

Ich folge dir gleichfalls
from the *St. John Passion*
Myrtle Lemon-Todd, soprano

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

I follow you likewise with joyful steps and do not leave you, my life, my light.
Bring me on my way and do not cease to pull, push and urge me on.

Scripture

Exodus 19:1-6

Don Barry

Sermon

Rev. Bob Griggs

Prayer Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

NCH #23 (In Babilone)

v1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgment given.

v2 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's word;
and our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.

The Prayers

We will begin 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

Giving Thanks

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

The sky, and the water that follows the changes in the clouds, and the earth, and the mountains that wait forever, and the light that transforms;
And an eye close to my eye, a thought close to my thought, and a face that smiles and cries along with mine, and two feet behind my feet, as wave follows wave;
And a soul, invisible, full of love and immortality, and a clothing of flesh and bone that will spring up anew in the resurrection, and truth, and the spirit, and grace with its heritage of light:
All this have you given me, and you have given me yourself as well, in obedience and in the blood of your cross, and in a bread softer than the freshness of the stars, my God.
Alleluia.

Prayer of Thanks

Holy One, you are the giver of every good thing. We share our offering this morning, stepping in faith down the path of grace. May what we share be gifts for the world you love so much. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Pilgrim Hymnal #15
(Lobe den Herren)

v1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

v2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

v3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the almighty can do,
If with his love he befriend thee.

v4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
Gladly for aye we adore him.

Benediction

Postlude

Praise to the Lord

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

We are so glad you worshiped here today!

There are no breakout rooms today. Worship will be followed by a forum from the Financial Futures Group; stay on Zoom to participate.

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

Tuesday, September 28

12 p.m. Staff Lunch

1-2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

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

7 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 29

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

Saturday, October 2

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

Sunday, October 3

9:15 a.m. Children's Faith Formation (Front Lawn)

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship

Financial Futures Group Forum Today

Please join us right after worship today for an important conversation with members of the Financial Futures team! The Stewardship and Financial Futures teams as well as Council have been having meaningful conversations about the financial position of the church, looking into this coming year, as well as the next several years. Please stay on Zoom after worship to participate!

ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

The federal reconciliation infrastructure bill can do much to help those most in need. Final negotiations on it are taking place with a deadline looming. [Contact your senators and representatives.](#) Urge them to pass full funding of the bill at the amount the Senate originally pledged to support needed changes. Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-722468. All rights reserved.

Hymns from The New Century Hymnal © 1995, The Pilgrim Press.
Praise the Lord, The Almighty by Paul Manz © 1964, Concordia Publishing House.
The Kingdom of God by Austin C. Lovelace © 1987, Hope Publishing Co.
Giving Thanks by Olivier Messiaen © 1937 Éditions Durand.

Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890. Harvest in Provence, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55315> [retrieved September 21, 2021]. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ernte_in_der_Prov%C3%A9nce.jpeg.

First UCC Leadership & Staff



Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Sam Steinberg

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: Ann Sullivan, Crystal Henslin, Elise Eslinger,
Nalani McCutcheon, Kathy Sandberg

Welcome & Testimony: Dan Sullivan

Reader: Don Barry

Special Musicians: Myrtle Lemon Todd

Digital Zoom Host: Betsy Barrett

Tech Team: Ben Gottfried and Mackenzie Perkins

ASL Interpretation: Patty Sheehan

Worship Arts: Linda Gagnon