



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
September 19, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

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

Prelude *Toccata: Adagio—Allegro moderato* Georg Muffat (1645-1704)

Welcome and Testimony Debra Ehret Miller

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

One: God of holy wisdom,

Many: we are seekers on the way to a deeper wisdom and a wider vision.

One: Our lives are full of information and opinions,
but in the midst of it all, we long to hear the voice of wisdom –

Many: Your voice, O God – teaching us how to live.

One: God, we have come here this morning

Many: to learn from your Word, from your Holy Spirit, and from one another.

One: We have come searching for the deeper, richer life that you have promised.

Many: Prepare us to hear the Words spoken to our hearts this morning.

One: Help us to hear your wisdom in worship

Many: and grant us the courage to respond; living out your vision for the world.

Opening Hymn *God of Grace and God of Glory* NCH #436 (Cwm Rhondda)
verses 1, 2, 3, and 5

v1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

v3 Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.

v2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us--
free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living these days,
for the living of these days.

v5 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Time With Children

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

Anthem

Be Joyful in God

Alice Parker (1925-)

Be joyful in God all ye lands of the earth,
O serve him with gladness and fear.
Exult in his presence with music and mirth,
With love and devotion draw near.
Jehovah is God, and Jehovah alone,
Who reigns with his son above all,
And we are his people, his sceptre we own,
His sheep, and we follow his call.

O enter his gates with thanksgiving and song,
Your vow in his temple proclaim.
His praise with melodious accordance prolong,
And bless his adorable name,
For good is the Lord, inexpressibly good,
And we are the works of his hand.
His mercy and truth from eternity stood,
And shall to eternity stand.

—Psalm 100, translated by James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Scripture

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Rich Graves

Sermon

Trish Zimmerman

Prayer Hymn

The Humble Heart

(Consolation)

Whence comes this bright celestial light,
What cause produces this?
A heaven opens to my sight,
Bright scenes of joy and bliss.
O Lord Jehovah, art Thou here?
This light proclaims Thou art.
“I am indeed, I’m always near
Unto the humble heart.”

“The proud and lofty I forsake,
And bless the meek and low.
I hear the humble soul that cries,
And comfort I bestow.
Of all the trees among the wood
I’ve chose the little vine;
The meek and low are nigh to me,
The humble heart is mine.”

“Of all the kinds that range at large,
I’ve chose one little flock,
And those I make my lovely charge,
Before them I will walk.
Their constant shepherd I will be,
And all their ways refine,
And they shall serve and rev’rence me,
The humble heart is mine.”

The Prayers

We will begin prayers in song, then a minister will pray. After each prayer petition, we will sing. Then 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

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
His praises thither fly;
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!
The Church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out;
But above all the heart
Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

—George Herbert (1593-1632)

Prayer of Thanks

Holy One, you call us to serve one another in love and generosity. You have shared your wisdom abundantly, and poured your Spirit into our hearts. Take and use these gifts, shared freely, for your glory, that your joy may be boundless in the world. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

For the Fruit of All Creation

NCH #425 (Ar Hyd Y Nos)

v1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For God's gift to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

v2 In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In the worldwide tasks of caring,
for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

v3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Benediction

Postlude

Toccata: Allegro

Georg Muffat (1645-1704)

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 to join in conversation on the lawn after worship.

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 21

1-2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

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

6:30-8 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Assembly Room)

Wednesday, September 22

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

Sunday, September 26

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

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship

ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

Urge your U.S. Senators to follow Congress's lead in H.R. 6 and H.R. 1603 by enacting within the budget reconciliation measures for immigration reform that would secure a stable legal status for Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS)/Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders, migrant agricultural workers, and other undocumented essential workers. Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

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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: Lois Langerak, Ed Langerak, Scott Richardson, Betsy Barrett, Annie Kramer

Welcome & Testimony: Debra Ehret Miller

Reader: Rich Graves

Digital Zoom Host: Elise Eslinger

Tech Team: Annika Reister

Worship Arts: Barb Altstaetter