



Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
October 24, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

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

Prelude *Sonata No. 3 in E* Domenico Paradies (1707-1791)
I. Aria

Welcome and Announcements

Testimony Muriel Hachfeld

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

Call to Worship

One: We come with songs aching to be sung,

Many: with words aching to be spoken,

One: with feelings aching to be expressed,

Many: with questions aching to be answered.

One: We come with wounds aching to be healed,

Many: with emptiness aching to be filled,

One: with joy aching to overflow,

Many: with arms aching for embracing.

One: May God's love soak into our spirits like soothing salve so that all may say we have met with God today,

Many: And everyone was touched and no one was turned away.

Opening Hymn _____ *We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness* NCH #179 (Passion Chorale)

v1 We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness

and for your healing touch;
too long have we felt helpless;
our burdens seemed too much.

Forgetting all pretenses
we make our pleading heard,
in hope and expectation
await your gracious Word.

v2 We long to have companions

who travel by our side,
strong friends to call and answer
with whom we are allied;
As we lift up each other
when struggles lay us low,
community develops;
our faith and caring grow.

v3 We need your living presence,

O Christ of Galilee,
a presence that revives us
and sets our spirits free.
No longer are we fearful,

your love pervades each place.
Empower us with courage
to claim your healing grace.

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 *Thy Mercy, My God, Is the Theme of My Song* Alexander Johnson (1818)

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song, The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue. Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last, Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.	Without thy free mercy I could not live here, Sin soon would reduce me to utter despair. But through thy free goodness, my spirits revive, And God who first made me still keeps me alive.
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The door of thy mercy stands open all day
To the needy and poor who knock by the way.
No sinner shall ever be empty sent back
Who comes seeking mercy for Jesus's dear sake.

—attributed to John Stocker (1776)

Scripture Mark 10:46-52 Garda Kahn

Sermon Rev. Cindy Maddox

Prayer Hymn *Now the Green Blade Rises* (v1 and v4) NCH #238 (Noel Nouvelet)

v1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain; Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again like wheat that rises green.	v2 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again, Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat that rises green.
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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

My Eyes for Beauty Pine

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

My eyes for beauty pine,
My soul for Goddes grace;
No other care nor hope is mine,
To heaven I turn my face.

One splendor thence is shed
From all the stars above;
'Tis named when God's name is said:
'Tis love, 'tis heavenly love.

And every gentle heart
That burns with true desire
Is lit by eyes that mirror part
Of that celestial fire.

—Robert Bridges (1890)

Prayer of Thanks

God, grant us the awareness of all we have been given, the courage to give back in full measure, and the wisdom to see both of these as blessings. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
(v1–3, 5)

NCH #547 (Amazing Grace)

v1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

v3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

v2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

v5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Benediction

Postlude

Lord God, We All Give Praise to Thee

J.G. Walther (1684-1748)

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 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

Monday, October 25

6 p.m. Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) Parent/Caregiver Orientation (Assembly Room)

Tuesday, October 26

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

7 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 27

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

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

Thursday, October 28

10 a.m. Care Team Meeting (Assembly Room)

Friday, October 29

8 p.m. Youth Movie Night (Church Lawn)

Sunday, October 31

9:15 a.m. Children's Faith Formation: Trunk or Treat! (Front Lawn)

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship

Stewardship Update

Join First UCC next Sunday, October 31, for Commitment Sunday as we celebrate this faith community's abundant gifts! If you haven't yet turned in your 2022 Estimates of Giving, you still can! You may return an estimate of giving card to the church office, 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.](#)

Trunk or Treat! October 31 @ 9 a.m.

Children's Faith Formation Families, we hope you will join in the fun on Sunday, October 31st, at 9 a.m. for a first-ever First UCC Trunk-or-Treat event! We will gather earlier in the morning to have some Halloween fun! If your family is up to decorate your trunk and add to the number of trunks, we'd love your participation! First UCC Grown Ups, we need your help! If you don't have kids in Faith Formation, but want to dress up, decorate your trunk, and bring some candy, we'd love to have you join in the fun, too. Please contact Pastor Lauren at associateminister@firstucc.org.

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 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! Contact Jean Haslett, Membership Team Chair at hasletts66@yahoo.com or 507-650-0753 if you are interested in attending the orientation.

ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

World leaders meet soon for the UN Climate Summit in Glasgow. Add your signature to the letter our coalition partner Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL) created as a "faith sign-on letter to world leaders at the Glasgow UN climate talks." The letter speaks to "a moral responsibility to care for one another and for our common home," and calls for specific actions. [You will find the letter and a means to add your support to it here.](#) Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

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Duccio, di Buoninsegna, -1319?. Healing of the Man Born Blind, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56662>
[retrieved October 20, 2021]. Original source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Duccio_di_Buoninsegna_037.jpg

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: Ann Sullivan, Dan Sullivan, Linda Larson, Betsy Barrett, Jeffrey Latterell

Welcome & Testimony: Muriel Hachfeld

Reader: Garda Kahn

Digital Zoom Host: Carl Henry

Tech Team: Annika Reister

ASL Interpretation: Mary Jo Cristofaro

Worship Arts: Linda Gagnon