



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

First United Church of Christ

**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation**

August 21, 2022

10:30 a.m.

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

Prelude Sarabande J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
(from Suite for flute and piano)
Kay Sahlin, flute

Welcome and Announcements

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

Call to Worship

One: God calls us

ALL: Whether we are young or old, whether we are strong or frail

One: When we feel safe and sound, and when we feel scared or abandoned

ALL: God calls us.

One: God calls each of us and offers to set us free from whatever holds us back.

ALL: So come, let us worship and praise our wondrous, healing God.

Opening Hymn O My Soul, Bless Your Creator #13 (Stuttgart)

1. O my soul, bless your Creator;
all within me bless God's name;
Bless your Maker, and forget not
all God's mercies to proclaim

3. Far as east from west is distant,
God has put away our sin;
Like a mother and a father,
God compassionate has been.

2. God forgives all your transgressions,
all who suffer, gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction,
and with you so kindly deals.

4. As it was without beginning,
so it lasts without an end;
To their children's children ever
shall God's righteousness extend:

5. Unto all who keep God's covenant
and are steadfast in God's way;
Unto all who still remember
God's commandments and obey.

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.**

Statement of Commitment: Open & Affirming Covenant

First United Church of Christ of Northfield, Minnesota is an Open and Affirming church. We covenant with God and one another to work together to make our church open to and affirming of all regardless of gender, gender identity or expression, age, economic or marital status, race, physical or mental ability, cultural heritage, or sexual orientation. We will seek to strengthen, encourage, comfort, and affirm each other as we strive together and individually to understand and experience God’s unconditional love.

Scripture Luke 13:10–17 Fred Rogers

Sermon Rev. Cindy Maddox

Responsive Prayer

Healing God, when we shoulder burdens far too heavy for us to bear, lay your hands upon us; unfold us with your grace. When we become overwhelmed with things around us and we ignore your people, lay your hands upon us; unfold us with your grace. When we clench our fists and our hearts with rage, lay your hands upon us; unfold us with your grace. When we allow our doubts to shut us down rather than open us up to new possibilities, lay your hands upon us; unfold us with your grace. Forgive and heal us, we pray.

Prayer Hymn Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult #172 (Galilee)

1. Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult
of our life’s wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us,
saying, “Christian, follow me.”

3. Jesus calls us from the worship
of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us,
saying, “Christian, love me more.”

2. As of old, Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus’ sake.

4. In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures,
“Christian, love me more than these.”

5. Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

The Prayers

We will join in prayer aloud and in silence. All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.

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.

Sharing Our Gifts

The hearts in the offering plate are for the children's offering. We are collecting to buy chicks for the Regenerative Agriculture Poultry Farm.

Offertory

Song of Esther

Stan Pethel

Prayer of Thanks

We are the Receivers—receivers of love, receivers of grace, receivers of healing.

We are the Givers—following God's call, following Jesus, following our hearts.

Lord, we give these offerings for the work of your kingdom, with humble thanks for mercies received.

Hymn of Sending

Lord of the Dance

19th Cent. Shaker Tune

(verses 1, 3, 5; congregation sings refrain only, see page 6)

Benediction

Postlude

Gigue
(Suite for flute and piano)

J. S. Bach

We are so glad you worshiped here today!

News to Note

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. in person on Sundays. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. 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 now.](#) 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, August 21

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Tuesday, August 23

7 p.m. Church Council Meeting (Assembly Room)

Wednesday, August 24

2–5 p.m. Teacher Book Pickup

6:30 p.m. The Great Escape (Big Room)

Thursday, August 25

2–5 p.m. Teacher Book Pickup

Friday, August 26

7:30 p.m. Bridge Chamber Music Festival Concert (Sanctuary)

Coffee Hour Today

Join together for friendship, conversation, and coffee in the Assembly Room following worship today!

Racial Justice Question During Coffee Hour

"I can be sure, if I need medical or legal help, my race will not work against me." Think about this statement or [others like it](#). Use your thinking to answer the racial justice question this Sunday at Coffee Hour! Post-it notes and writing utensils will be available for you in the Assembly Room.

Coffee Hour Volunteers and Coordinator Needed

Volunteer hosts are needed for Coffee Hour! Starting in September, Coffee Hour will be a weekly event. Volunteering is easy to do, and orientation will be provided for those who are new to Coffee Hour hosting. Interested? [Sign up to host here](#). First UCC is also looking for a volunteer to serve as the Coffee Hour coordinator. If you are interested, please contact church@firstucc.org.

ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

Come Sunday, Aug. 21 at 2 p.m. to Emmaus Church (712 N. Linden St.) in the downstairs fellowship hall to get an update on what is happening at Viking Terrace. Learn how the Viking Terrace community has organized and how others might come alongside them to show support. Perhaps it is volunteer time, a fundraiser or finding and helping with grants. Come ready to listen and brainstorm with organizers of this event. 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: Deb Gottfried

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: 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

AV Technician: Brynn Artley

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Thanks to this Week's Leaders



Ushers: Anne Meyer Ruppel, Linda Larson, Phil Parsons,
Leota Goodney, Nancy Barbour

Digital Greeter: Gary Wagenbach

Scripture Reader: Fred Rogers

Tech Team: Theo Miller

Worship Arts: Linda Gagnon

Lord of the Dance

Sidney Carter

19th-c. Shaker Tune

Refrain:



Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the



dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be, and I'll



lead you all in the dance, said he.