



## **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**First United Church of Christ**

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

**September 11, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

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

**Prelude** *Ezekiel Saw the Wheel / Now Let Me Fly* African-American spirituals  
Mark and Holly Fischer

### Welcome and Announcements

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

### Call to Worship

One: Like Abraham and Sarah, we have accepted your call to journey into unknown territory. We ask for your Spirit to lead us.

**ALL: Like Moses and Miriam, we have accepted your call to lead your children toward freedom. We ask for your Spirit to guide us.**

One: Like Ruth and Jeremiah, we have accepted your call to risk ourselves for your plan of hope. We ask for your Spirit to encourage us.

**ALL: Like Mary Magdalene and John the Baptist, we have accepted your call to bear witness to the God of life. We ask for your Spirit to empower us.**

One: Like Peter and Priscilla, we have accepted your call to establish your church in this place. We ask for your Spirit to fill us.

**ALL: Like the visionary mystics before us, we have accepted your call in spite of opposition. We ask for your Spirit to give us courage.**

One: Guiding, empowering Spirit: we ask upon your silent breath that gives life to our faith, that makes active our love, that emboldens our commitment, and that gives direction to our work.

**ALL: Come, Spirit of God. Come.**

**Opening Hymn** *Christians, We Have Met to Worship* (Holy Manna)

1. Christians, we have met to worship  
and adore the living God.  
Will you pray with all your power  
while we try to preach the word?  
All is vain unless the spirit  
of the Holy One comes down;  
Christians, pray, and holy manna  
will be showered all around.

2. Is there here a trembling jailer,  
seeking grace and filled with fear?  
Is there here a weeping Mary  
pouring forth a flood of tears?  
Tell them all about the Savior,  
how in Christ the lost are found.  
Pray, oh pray, and holy manna  
will be scattered all around.

3. Let us love our God supremely;  
let us love each other, too.  
Let us pray for all earth's people  
till our God makes all things new.  
Christ will call us home to heaven,

at the table we'll sit down;  
Christ will welcome us and serve us  
living manna all around.

**Time With Children:** Blessing of Backpacks and Devices

**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:** Our Church Covenant

**We covenant together with God and one another, trusting in God's continuing guidance, to seek to understand and do God's will, to explore the mystery of Christ, and to witness to God's reconciling love.**

<b>Scripture</b>	Acts 11:1–11	Greg Muth
<b>Sermon</b>		Rev. Cindy Maddox
<b>Prayer Hymn</b>	<i>Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ</i>	#520 (Sursum Corda)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 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.*

<b>Prayer Response</b>	<i>Open My Eyes</i>	Jesse Manibusan and Rufino Zaragoza
------------------------	---------------------	-------------------------------------

# Open My Eyes



O - pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your  
O - pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your  
O - pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love like



face. O - pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.  
voice. O - pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.  
you. O - pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

## 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 raise money to help our neighbors at Viking Terrace.*

## Offertory

*Let Me Fly*

Mike and the Mechanics (2017)

## Prayer of Thanks

**We invite you to be with us, Holy One, as we offer you our love, our devotion, and these gifts. May our eyes be opened to your holy presence among us, now and always. Amen.**

## Hymn of Sending

*What Wondrous Love is This*

#223 (Wondrous Love)

1. What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul! O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this!  
That Christ should come in bliss  
to bear the heavy cross  
for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

2. To God and to the Lamb  
I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb,  
I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb  
who is the great I Am,  
while millions join the theme  
I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

3. And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing on!  
And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on!

## Benediction

## Postlude

*I'll Fly Away*

#595

**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](http://firstucc.org).

### **This Week at First UCC**

#### Sunday, September 11

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

#### Tuesday, September 13

10 a.m. First UCC Women's Group (Assembly Room/Lawn)

1 p.m. Staff Meeting (Assembly Room)

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal

#### Wednesday, September 14

6 p.m. Facilities Meeting (Assembly Room)

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

7 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

#### Friday, September 16

5 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### **Be Thou My Vision: Insight from Christian Mystics**

Join First UCC Sundays in September for a new sermon and worship series on Christian mystics. Each week we will explore the insight and teaching of one of these teachers who had significant wisdom to share about the nature of God's grace. Next week, Pastor Cindy will be preaching on the life and teaching of Spanish mystic Teresa of Avila.

### **Children's Faith Formation: Pizza in the Park, September 18**

Calling all Children's Faith Formation Families, pre-K through 5th grade! Please bring your whole family or all who can attend to Spring Creek Park and Soccer Complex 4:00–6:00 p.m September 18. We will gather to kick off the faith formation year with pizza for all, playtime for kids, and social time for adults! Bring your favorite beverages, a chair or blanket for sitting, and we will supply the pizza and treats. [Please let us know you'll be coming](#) so we know how much pizza to order. See you there!

### **Water from Many Places, September 18**

Did you collect water from a place you visited this summer as part of our Water from Many Places project? It may have been somewhere as close as a kayaking trip along the Cannon River, or as far as a stream or ocean around the globe! We hope you will bring water from the place you've traveled with you on September 18. We will collect the water from many places in worship, naming where it is from, and then filter and boil it so it can be used for baptisms. We will keep a running list of the places from which our water has been collected, so please keep it in mind, even if you travel somewhere after September 18.

### **NEW! God and Everything Else Group Starting Sept. 28**

Join a new exciting opportunity for adult faith formation: God and Everything Else. This group will provide a space for mutual sharing of attendees' spiritual experiences and practices from the week. No preparation is needed; come as you are! Everyone is welcome each week, even if you don't anticipate having anything to share. This group will meet for 6 Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 in the library, September 28 - November 2. Questions? Please contact the church office to ask questions or to get in touch with leaders Amy and Kadie.

### **Coffee Hour Volunteers and Coordinator Needed**

Volunteer hosts are needed for Coffee Hour! Starting in September, Coffee Hour is 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](mailto:church@firstucc.org).

### **Webinar on UCC Capital Campaign for Racial Justice, September 15 at 6 p.m.**

September 15, 2022 will be a historic day for the United Church of Christ. For the first time in UCC history, the denomination will begin a capital campaign to support our work of racial justice. On the 59th anniversary of 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama that galvanized movements to end segregation and establish civil rights, we come together to remember and discover how our sharing of resources can fuel and grow our racial justice work today and for generations to come. Campaign co-chairs Otis Moss III, Naomi Washington-Leapheart, and Starsky Wilson sharing their visions of a church and a world moving toward fuller embodiments of racial justice in a campaign kick-off webinar. [Register here](#).

### **ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)**

ISAIAH and Creation Care share an excellent article sent to us: "[The most cost-effective energy efficiency investments you can make – and how the new Inflation Reduction Act could help](#)." Learn what helps the most, and how people can do climate-wise, money-saving tasks and use new tax credits and rebates. Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email [isaiah@firstucc.org](mailto:isaiah@firstucc.org).

---

Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-722468. All rights reserved.  
Come, Let Us Worship God by Ray Makeever ©1983 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. All rights reserved.  
Let Me Fly by Mike and the Mechanics © 2017 Michael Rutherford Ltd.

Bulletin Image: Mary Magdalen Announces the Resurrection to the Apostles, St. Alban's Psalter, 12th Century, Held by Dombibliothek Hildesheim, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Maria\\_Magdalen\\_berichtet\\_den\\_J%C3%BCngern.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Maria_Magdalen_berichtet_den_J%C3%BCngern.jpg)

### **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, Leota Goodney, Jeffrey Latterell

**Digital Greeter:** Margit Johnson  
**Scripture Interpretation:** Greg Muth  
**Special Music:** Mark and Holly Fischer  
**Musician:** Mary Carlsen, Hymn Leader  
**Worship Arts:** Linda Gagnon