



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First United Church of Christ

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

September 18, 2022

10:30 a.m.

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

Prelude *Petit Prelude (Aria)* Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

Welcome and Announcements

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

Call to Worship

One: Let us praise God, who gives living water, through whom God's people flourish.

ALL: *Like trees planted by the water, God, are those who trust in you.*

One: Like trees with deep roots are those who place their faith in you.

ALL: *We praise you, God, for life that has no end.*

Opening Hymn *Like a Tree Beside the Waters* #313 (Silver Creek)

1. Like a tree beside the waters, nurtured by your loving care, We, O God, your sons and daughters, your enduring witness bear. In each passing generation may your voice of love be heard. Bless, we pray, this congregation with your holy, living Word.	2. Like a tree beside the river, drawing life from holy streams, Fill us with your love forever; recreate our hopes and dreams. Through the storms of life sustain us by the wisdom of your grace. May the changing of the seasons find us in your warm embrace.
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3. We, beside the living waters,
drink from your eternal life.
Give to all your sons and daughters
faith that rises over strife.
O Living God, most glorious,
strengthen us for life today.
By the hope of timeless promise
Guide your church upon the Way.

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.**

Blessing of the Water from Many Places

If you are worshipping with us online and have water to contribute, you may bring it to the church during office hours this week with a label with your name and where you gathered the water from.

Statement of Commitment: Land Acknowledgement

As a community of faith, we at First UCC Northfield acknowledge that our church was formed on the ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute Band and other bands of the Dakota Nation. Our church began here in 1856 when the Dakota were being forcibly removed from their homelands. With God’s help, we strive to repair ongoing injustices and grow toward right relationships with Indigenous people. We lament the broken treaties and genocide that happened in the Dakota homeland Mni Sota Makoçe and the unjust legacy that persists. We faithfully commit ourselves to interrupt this legacy as part of our pledge to work toward racial justice. We will continue with acts of healing through our commitment to hear stories of this place and those who have lived here for generations, to learn about Indigenous history, current stories, and public policies that impact Indigenous people, and to take appropriate action to begin repairing the injustices done to Indigenous people.

Anthem

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

Donald Oglesby (1985)

Awake, awake to love and work:
the lark is in the sky,
the fields are wet with diamond dew,
the worlds awake to cry
their blessings on the Lord of life
as he goes meekly by.

Come, let thy voice be one with theirs,
shout with their shout of praise!
See how the giant sun soars up,
great lord of years and days.
So let the love of Jesus come
and set thy soul ablaze.

To give, and give, and give again
what God has given thee,
to spend thyself, nor count the cost,
to serve right gloriously
the God who made all worlds that are,
and all that are to be.

Scripture

1 John 4:7–21

Mandy Everhart

Sermon

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Prayer Hymn

Nothing Distress You

Nothing Distress You

Teresa of Avila, tr. Colin P. Thompson

Peter Cutts, *Many Mansions*



Noth - ing dis - tress you, noth - ing af - fright you; ev - ery - thing
See the world's glo - ry! Fad - ing its splend - or, ev - ery - thing
Hell may as - sail you, it can - not move you; sor - rows may



pas - ses, God will a - bide. Pa - tient en -
pas - ses, all is de - nied. Look ev - er -
grieve you, faith may be tried. Though you have



deav - or ac - com - plish - es all things; who God pos -
home - ward to the e - ter - nal; faith - ful in
noth - ing, God is your trea - sure; who God pos -



ses - ses needs naught be - side.
pro - mise God will a - bide.
ses - ses needs naught be - side.

The Prayers

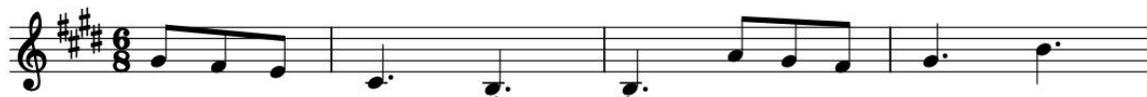
We will join in prayer aloud and in silence. All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.

Prayer Response

Open My Eyes

Jesse Manibusan and Rufino Zaragoza

Open My Eyes



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



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

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to join in reading this variation of the Prayer of Jesus:

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere! Release a space to plant your Presence here. Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form. Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom. Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults. Help us to not forget our Source, and free us from not being in the Present. From you arises every Vision, Power, and Song from gathering to gathering. 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

Beloved, If God So Loved Us

Sir Joseph Barnby (1838-96)

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also. (1 John 4: 7, 21)

Prayer of Thanks

Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
(verses 1, 3, 4)

#43 (Hyfrydol)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 Fix in us a humble dwelling,
all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion;
pure, unbounded love impart.
 Visit us with your salvation,
 enter every trembling heart.

3. Come, almighty to deliver,
 let us all your life receive;
 Suddenly return, and never,
 Never more your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing,
 love you as your angels love,
 Pray and praise for your unfailing,
wounded arms outstretched above.

4. Finish, then, your new creation;
pure and spotless may we prove;
 Let us see your great salvation
 Perfectly restored in you;
 Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

Mark Sedio

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, September 18

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Tuesday, September 20

1 p.m. Staff Meeting (Assembly Room)

Wednesday, September 21

6 p.m. Trustees Meeting (Assembly Room)

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

7 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

8 p.m. Spirit Voices Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, September 25

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

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 Lauren will be preaching on the life and teaching of Hildegard of Bingen.

Water from Many Places TODAY

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 brought water from the place you've traveled with you to worship today, 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.

TODAY: Pizza in the Park

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. today, 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. If you haven't yet RSVP'd, there's still time! Go to <https://tinyurl.com/uccpizzainthepark> and let us know how many people will be attending.

Coffee Hour Today

Join us for coffee hour today following worship in the Assembly Room (around 11:30)! Volunteers are needed to set up and serve during coffee hour each week. Interested? [Sign up to host here.](#)

Digital Greeters Needed!

Each week, those who worship on Zoom are greeted by a friendly face in the Zoom room and the chat. This digital greeter plays an important role providing hospitality for those who are worshipping online, sharing the bulletin, opening the chat for prayers, and helping people connect after worship in breakout rooms or the larger Zoom room for conversation and friendship--like the ushers in the sanctuary, only online! First UCC is in need of more people for this important volunteer role! Do you worship regularly online, and would you be

willing to serve as a digital greeter? Do you sometimes worship from home and would be willing to help on a Sunday in this way? You can even bring your laptop to church and greet folks online from your spot in the pews! Guidance is provided each week, so you never have to wonder what to do when! Please contact church@firstucc.org if you are interested in serving as a digital greeter.

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.

ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

Local elections are very important for living our values. Register to vote, learn where and how to vote, discern which candidates align with your values, and vote. Discerning candidates' values can be hard in a non-presidential election year. We and other social ministries will help in weeks to come. Much about the basics of who is running, how to register, where to vote, etc. can be found at your city or county voter information website.

For Northfielders the url is <https://www.northfieldmn.gov/120/Elections-Voter-Information>. 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: Scott Richardson, Phil Parsons, Mandy Everhart,
Cyrus Kirby, Joan Higinbotham
Digital Greeter: Beth Kallestad
Scripture Reader: Mandy Everhart
Worship Arts: Linda Gagnon