



First United Church of Christ, Northfield

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

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [Virtual Visitor Card](#).

Prelude

Sicilienne

Maria Theresia von Paradis
(1759-1824)

Welcome

Entering the Journey

Gathering Music

Come, Let Us Worship God
(join in as directed)

Ray Makeever (1983)

Call to Worship / Prayer of Invocation

One: Sojourning God, your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path, inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other.

Many: Open us to the depth of our connections even when it seems the difference between us is so profound.

One: Show us our shared humanity so that we will know what others love, see that we love the same, and share the burdens and the love.

Many: Nudge and guide us, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Lead On, Eternal Sovereign

#573 (Lancashire)

V1: Lead on eternal Sovereign,
we follow in your way;
loud rings your cry for justice,
your call for peace this day:
Through prayerful preparation,
your grace will make us strong,
to carry on the struggle
to triumph over wrong.

V2: Lead on eternal Sovereign,
we follow not with fear,
for in each human conflict,
your words of strength we hear:

That when we serve with gladness,
you will not let us fall,
our trust is in your promise
that love will conquer all.

V3: Lead on eternal Sovereign,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and all your saints together
will sing a hymn of peace;
Then all in your dominion
will live with hearts set free,
to love and serve each other
for all eternity.

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.**

Scripture

Luke 7:1-10

Rich Graves

Sermon

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Reflecting on the Journey

Prayer Hymn

Open Your Eyes to the Image of God

see page 6

The Prayers – *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

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,

All: **God, let your spirit move in us.**

Prayer of Jesus – *You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with this version:*

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 plate are for the children's offering, to raise money for our hungry neighbors.

Offertory

God's Time Is Best

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Accept our gifts, O God, as we seek to turn toward greater love. Lead us to travel in your ways of generosity and compassion. Amen.

Announcements

Hymn of Sending

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

see page 7

Benediction

Postlude

Prelude and Chaconne Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

We're so glad you worshiped here today!

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Ushers: Jeffery Latterell, Cheryl Rempel, Janette Stromley, Carol Rutz, Elise Eslinger

Musicians: Pamela Carlson, organ; Donna McMillan, soprano

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Cover Art: Photo of a portion of a globe by Bellerby & Co. Globemakers. For an interesting read, check out "How the North Ended Up on Top of the Map" at <http://america.aljazeera.com>.

This Week at First UCC

Sunday, July 16

10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, July 17

9:00 a.m. Men's Group Meeting

Tuesday, July 18

6:00 p.m. Trustee's Meeting

Thursday, July 20

7:00 p.m. NA Meeting (Big Room)

Sunday, July 23

10:30 a.m. Worship

Men's Group Meeting

Join the Men's Group meeting on Monday, July 17th from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Art Higinbotham will lead the discussion and provide a reading in advance. We look forward to seeing you there! Have questions? Want to be added to our email list? Contact Jim Rafferty at cejmraff@gmail.com.

Go Team Teal!

Cheer on First UCC's softball team Fighting Apostles today, Sunday, July 16 at 6:05 p.m. They'll be playing Northfield Canvas Church at SE 2. Interested in playing? Contact the church office at church@firstucc.org.

Potluck, Praise, and Pie - July 19 @ 5:30

Join All Saints Episcopal Church at Oddfellows Pavilion for a summertime potluck! An old-fashioned sing-along will follow dinner, with pie afterwards. Bring a dish to share!

BLA Field Trips

The Beyond Land Acknowledgement team invites you to look and listen on **Saturday, July 22 when we visit Historic Fort Snelling and Bdote**, the sacred place where the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers come together at the tip of **Pike Island in Fort Snelling State Park** below the fort. Both sites have expanded stories about the long Indigenous histories there. Family and friends are encouraged to join in. You can spend as much time in one or both locations as your schedule allows. **Carpools will leave the church parking lot at 9:30 AM for the 45-minute drive to Minneapolis. Contact Nancy Carpenter for more information. Bring water bottles and good walking shoes.** Members of the MN Historical Society have free admission; others pay \$8-12 depending on age. State park stickers work at the Fort Snelling State Park where Pike Island is located; day passes for cars are available.

A Note from ISAIAH

ISAIAH 2023 Legislative wins through your and our coalition partner's help! After 10 years of effort to overcome entrenched opposition, the 100% Clean Energy Bill package passed. This package sets good carbon elimination goals for MN based on current science with an emphasis on paying attention to racial equality and righting past wrongs. Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

Creation Care Eco-Info: Recycling

Plastics #1, 2 and 5 are recyclable. Grocery bags and newspaper bags can be recycled at grocery stores. If you wonder whether an item is recyclable, use the [Rice County Recycling Waste Wizard](#). Simply type in the item and you'll have your answer!

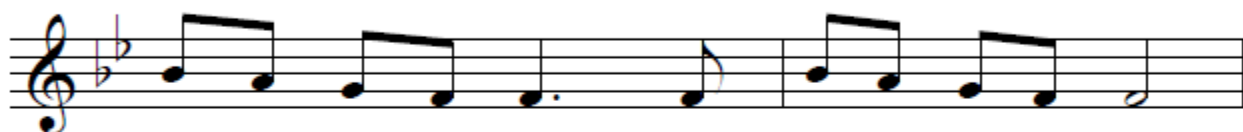
OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE IMAGE OF GOD

Adam M. L. Tice

WENDY
Sally Ann Morris



1. O - pen your eyes to the im - age of God.
2. O - pen your ears to the sing - ing of God.
3. O - pen your hands to the heal - ing of God.



Look a - round and find Christ's bod - y in our midst.
Lis - ten to the voice: God's Spir - it in our song.
Stand on ho - ly ground: cre - a - tion born a - new.



O - pen your eyes to the im - age of God:
O - pen your ears to the sing - ing of God:
O - pen your hands to the heal - ing of God:



bod - y, soul, and spir - it, made whole and ho - ly,
breath - ing, ris - ing voic - es, made whole and ho - ly,
life and love and be - ing, made whole and ho - ly,



born in the im - age of God.
born in the im - age of God.
born in the im - age of God.

GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN

Jeremiah Eames Rankin, c. 1880, alt.

RANDOLPH 9.8.8.9.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

In unison *Harmony*

1 God be with you till we meet a-gain; Lov - ing coun - sel
2 God be with you till we meet a-gain; Un - seen wings pro -
3 God be with you till we meet a-gain; When life's per - ils

guide, up - hold you, May the Shep-herd's care en - fold you:
tect - ing hide you, Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you:
thick con-found you, Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you:

In unison

God be with you till we meet a-gain.
God be with you till we meet a-gain.
God be with you till we meet a-gain. A - men.

Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning. Please let us know you're here by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Worship is also live-streamed each week on YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we're glad to have you here!

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. You may give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking on the "Give" button, or you may place your gift in the offering plate, 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, at firstucc.org, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Gary Carlson

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Kate Kvasnak

Finance Manager: Derek Melby

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley

Reflecting on the Journey

Recall a time when you were in unfamiliar surroundings. Were you excited to meet someone new? Or did you have uncomfortable or fearful feelings about an encounter?

Have you had an encounter with other religious practices? Do you know people who practice other faith traditions? What does your answer mean for your view of the world?

Whether we like to admit it or not, people “not like us” or places “far from home” can bring up feelings of fear. How do you think this affects our world? Can you imagine being part of changing this? How?