



*Stories that Connect and Deepen Us*

## **First United Church of Christ, Northfield**

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

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 17, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.**

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

**Prelude** *Sonata # for Organ: Andante* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

**Storytelling & Welcome** Mary Carlsen

**Gathering Music** *In the Beginning*  
(sing along as directed)

**Call to Worship**

One: Come together, everyone, and bring your stories and since your songs and share in the Spirit.

**Many: Let your memories paint the sky like a mural of perseverance and hope.**

One: Let your experiences tell a story of faith and faithlessness, of grief and joy, of exploration and self-care.

**Many: And let even the silence speak as we give voice to our praise.**

One: Come, let us worship together.

**Opening Hymn** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* #4 (Hymn to Joy)

**V1:** Joyful, Joyful, we adore you,  
God of glory, God of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the storms of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

**V2:** All your works with joy surrounding you,  
earth and heaven reflect your prayers,  
Stars and angels sing around you,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
teach us what our praise should be.

**V3:** You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,  
all who love belong to you;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
by that love our joy renew.

**V4:** Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,  
reconciling race and clan.  
Ever singing, move we forward,  
faithful in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us onward  
in the triumph song of life.

## 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

<b>Anthem</b>	<i>Be Joyful in God</i>	arr. Alice Parker (2009)
<b>Scripture</b>	Mark 9:33-37	Carol Rutz
<b>Sermon</b>		Rev. Cindy Maddox
<b>Prayer Hymn</b>	<i>God, Give Me Faith Like a Child</i>	See page 9

## 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

**O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.  
O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.**

## Prayer of Jesus

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

**Our Father and Mother in heaven, Holy is your name. May your love be enacted in the world. May your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today the bread we need and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Save us in times of trial and deliver us from evil. For all that we do in your love, and all that your love brings to birth, and the fullness of love that will be, are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## Sharing Our Gifts

*The hearts in the plates are for the children's offering, which supports the Community Action Center Food Shelf.*

## Offertory

*O God of Every Nation*

Calvin Hampton (1975)

O God of every nation,  
Of every race and land,  
Redeem your whole creation  
With your almighty hand;  
Where hate and fear divide us  
And bitter threats are hurled,  
In love and mercy guide us  
And heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power  
And scorn of truth and right,  
From trust in bombs that shower  
Destruction through the night,  
From pride of race and station  
And blindness to your way,  
Deliver every nation,  
Eternal God, we pray.

Lord, strengthen all who labor  
That we may find release  
From fear of rattling saber,  
From dread of war's increase;  
When hope and courage falter,  
Your still small voice be heard;  
With faith that none can alter,  
Your servants undergird.

Keep bright in us the vision  
Of days when wars shall cease,  
When hatred and division  
Give way to love and peace,  
Till dawns the morning glorious  
When fellowship shall reign  
And Christ shall rule victorious  
O'er all the world's domain. Amen.

—William Reid, Jr. (1923-2007)

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God, whose giving knows no ending, we know how to say thank you when we receive. Right now we say thank you as we give. In our giving, hear our heartfelt gratitude for all that you are and all that we have. Bless these gifts for the work of your kin-dom, we pray. Amen.**

## Announcements

### Hymn of Sending

*Go, My Children, With My Blessing*

#82 (Ar Hyd Y Nos)

**V1:** Go, my children, with my blessing,  
never alone;  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,  
you are my own;  
In my love's baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever,

Go, my children, with my blessing,  
you are my own.

**V2:** Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving,  
joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you,  
here with tender comfort stilled you;

### **Benediction**

Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
joyful and free.

### **Postlude**

*Sonata #2 for Organ: Allegro maestoso*

Felix Mendelssohn

## **We're so glad you worshiped here today!**

Please join us for a coffee hour in the Assembly Room after worship!

### **Thanks to this week's leaders:**

Music: Marty Hodel, trumpet

Ushers: Jeffery Latterell, Scott Richardson, Janette Stromley, Phil Parsons, Mary Rosenberg

Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-722468. All rights reserved.

O God of Every Nation © 1975 GIA Publications

O God, Hear My Prayer © 1982 Taizé Community (text), Jacques Berthier (music)

Be Joyful in God © 2009 Alice Parker

God, Give Me Faith Like a Child © 2013 GIA Publications

Cover Art: JESUS MAFA. Jesus welcomes the children, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48395>. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr>

## **This Week at First UCC**

### **Sunday, September 17**

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:45 a.m. ONA Meeting

6:00 p.m. Evening Service

### **Monday, September 18**

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

### **Tuesday, September 19**

2:00 p.m. Northfielders for Justice in  
Palestine & Israel

6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

### **Wednesday, September 20**

5:30 p.m. WFFF

6:15 p.m. Origami making

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, September 21**

5:00 p.m. Northfield's 2023 U.N.  
International Day of Peace

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

### **Sunday, September 24**

10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:45 a.m. ISAIAH Event  
6:00 p.m. Evening Service

### **Men's Group**

You are invited and welcomed to join the Men's Group on September 18 at 9:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room for the 3rd Monday Meeting. Light breakfast fare and coffee/tea will be available from 9:00-9:30. Rich Graves will then lead the discussion from 9:30-10:30, focusing on a selection from Melissa Florer-Bixler's book *How to Have an Enemy*. You can receive the selection from Ed Langerak in advance at [langarak@stolaf.edu](mailto:langarak@stolaf.edu). We hope to see you there!

### **We Need Drivers!**

The September Sign-up has been posted for those of you available and willing to volunteer to provide rides for the Peruvian Family. You can sign up at [firstucc.org/members-friends/](http://firstucc.org/members-friends/). Destinations include the food shelf, grocery shopping, ESL sessions, the Y, and more. Lisa Sexton suggests calling her in advance of the date to make certain nothing has changed. The couple has a car seat for Kendrick as he often accompanies them. For questions, cancellations, or messages to the family, please contact Lisa at 507-350-7072.

### **Selling Your Car?**

Know someone who's selling a car? Maybe you are! Consider donating your vehicle to the asylum-seeking Peruvian family. Please contact Gina Washburn at 507-210-8270 with any questions, concerns, or donations. Your support is appreciated - thank you!

### **WFFF**

First UCC's wildly successful (and very tasty) Wednesday night Food, Fellowship, and Fun is starting its return engagement on Wednesday, September 20th! It will run, except for holidays and bad weather, through the spring. To volunteer, please contact Hans Muessig at [hans.muessig@gmail.com](mailto:hans.muessig@gmail.com). There will also be a sign-up sheet available each Wednesday.

### **Evening Service Returns!**

Please join us on Sunday evenings, starting on September 17, at 6:00 p.m. for a time of singing, candle lighting, contemplation, and communion. On the first Sunday of the month we will follow a traditional Taize format, which focuses on repetitive singing, minimal spoken word, and does not include communion. We hope to see you there!

### **When My Time Comes**

Join this free screening of *When My Time Comes* on Monday, September 18 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Northfield Public Library. This event is hosted by the Northfield Aid in Dying Education Group. The film runs for 55 minutes and will be followed by a Q&A with members of

the AID Education Group. The screening is open to the public. For questions please contact Mary Carlsen at [mscarlsen1@gmail.com](mailto:mscarlsen1@gmail.com).

### **Northfield's 2023 UN International Day of Peace**

Celebrate Northfield's 2023 UN International Day of Peace on Thursday, September 21, from 5-7 p.m. in Central Park! Come for the music, art-making, yoga, juggling, and dance – activities for all ages! A short program will begin at 5:45 with keynote remarks by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, performances by the Northfield Dance Academy, the Justice Choir, and more. Food truck vouchers will be available for the first 170 students (with ID). Over 30 groups will bring their vision for peace and invite you to become involved!

### **Cathedral on Fire!**

Join a reading discussion of *Cathedral on Fire!* on October 8th, 15th, and 22nd after Worship. The UCC Minister for Environmental Justice, Brooks Brendt, comments on his purpose for writing in order to highlight “vitaly needed gifts that churches can offer [given] the urgency to the climate crisis.” To obtain a copy, email the church office. We currently have 21 available copies and are asking for a \$5 voluntary donation to cover the cost. The office will be handing out the books on a first-come-first-served basis. High-school students through senior citizens are welcome to attend the discussion!

### **A Note from ISAIAH**

On September 24 after Worship Service, come share your thoughts and hear what others have to say about what should be tackled in the new January 2024 Minnesota Legislative session. We'll start by briefly reviewing the remarkable success you helped achieve in this past session. We hope for a more truly equitable, just and caring world. Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email [isaiah@firstucc.org](mailto:isaiah@firstucc.org).

### **Creation Care Eco-Info**

Did you know that paper towels are not recyclable? They are made from fibers that are too small to be useful during the recycling process, and contain resins and adhesives that aren't ideal. Instead, compost your paper towels! – The Climate Action Handbook (Heidi Roop, 2023)

# 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 Zoom and 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](http://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](http://firstucc.org), and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](http://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

**Organist:** Catherine Rodland

**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



# GOD, GIVE ME FAITH LIKE A CHILD

Adam M. L. Tice

EZRAD  
Sally Ann Morris



1. God, give me faith like a child— faith of  
2. God, give me hope like a child— hope of  
3. God, give me love like a child— love of



hows, and whats, and whys; faith that won - ders,  
day - dreams and de - light; hope that seeks be -  
o - ver - flow - ing grace; love that's ea - ger



laughs, and cries; faith to grow, ex-plore, and  
yond my sight; hope that sings in spite of  
to embrace; love that calls to dance and



find all that moves my search-ing mind— God,  
fear when the fu - ture is - n't clear— God,  
play ev - 'ry - one who comes my way— God,



give me faith like a child.  
give me hope like a child.  
give me love like a child.