



First United Church of Christ, Northfield
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Creation Justice,
Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation

The Gospel According to Ted Lasso Series: I Give Him Love
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 29, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

Good morning! Welcome to First United Church of Christ, Northfield. Welcome to you if you are young or old or a little bit of both. Welcome to you if you are male or female or a little bit of both or neither. Welcome to you if you are gay or straight or a little bit of both or neither. Welcome to you if you are neurodivergent or differently abled, if you have faith that can move mountains or you make mountains out of molehills! No matter who you are, who you love, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

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

Prelude *Trios in C and E Flat* Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

Welcome

Gathering Music *Plenty Good Ways*

1. Plenty good ways to the top of God's mountain. Plenty good ways to go on up.
2. Get up, stand up, start on up. Get up, stand up, start on up.
3. The road might be difficult, but don't give up. Friends are on the journey, so don't give up.

Call to Worship

One: For the living of these days, let us heed promptings of possibility.

Many: Let us evoke creativities of compassion.

One: Let us be poised for flight on wings of faith and love.

Many: Let us worship with hearts and minds.

Opening Hymn *My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff* #418 (The Staff of Faith)

V1. My faith, it is an oaken staff, the traveler's well-loved aid;

My faith, it is a song of trust, sustains me undismayed.

I'll travel on and still be stirred by silent thought or social word,

By all my perils undeterred, a pilgrim unafraid.

V2. My guide is Jesus Christ whose steps, when travelers have trod,

Whether beneath was flinty rock or yielding grassy sod,

They carried on, their joy unspent; through pain and trial they onward went,

Unstayed by pleasure, still they bent their zealous course to God.

V3. My faith, it is an oaken staff, O let me on it lean.

My faith provides the ground of hope, supports a purpose keen.

Your spirit, God, upon me send, that I may be what you intend.

With patient courage, we'll content as radiant saints serene.

Time with Children



Sacrament of Baptism

Today we celebrate the baptism of Wesley Holm, child of Heidi and Aaron Holm.

Invitation

Baptismal Promises

Response of the Congregation

One: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized as he lives and grows in Christ?

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

Act of Baptism & Blessing

Baptismal Hymn

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

#325 (Stuttgart)

V1. Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

V2. Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!

Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

V3. Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.

Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.

V4. Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.

Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

Anthem

Where Can I Flee Your Presence, God?

Ian Kellam (2005)

Martha Postlethwaite (2005)

Where can I flee your presence, God;
Where hide from your pursuing grace?
You know my soul, my every cell.
Though I am lost, in you I dwell.

If I should probe the farthest realms
Of life beyond your guiding call,
Even there your hand shall comfort me
In all I touch and know and see.

Amazing love, what mystery,
For though I stray at every turn,
You never stop desiring me
Until, in all, your face I see.

Scripture

John 8:2-11

Mandy Everhart

Sermon

Pastor Cindy Maddox

Prayer Hymn

We Are Not Our Own

#564 (Yarnton)

V1. We are not our own, Earth forms us, human leaves on nature's growing vine,
Fruit of many generations, seeds of life divine.

V2. We are not alone. Earth names us; past and present, people's near and far,
family and friends and strangers show us who we are.

V3. Through a human life God finds us; dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us: we are not our own.

V4. Therefore let us make thanksgiving, and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth and all things living, liturgies of care.

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

God, We Lift Them Up to You

John Newell (2010)

One: - All:

God, we lift them up to you; en - fold them in the light of your love. **God, we**

lift them up to you; en - fold them in the light of your grace. Heal them,

com-fort them, give them what they need for the jour-ney. God, we

lift them up to you; en - fold them in the light of your love.

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 plates are for the Children's Offering, which supports the Community Action Center Food Shelf.

Offertory

Rest in the Lord of Life

Alan Bullard (2004)

Rest thou, rest, and away with all sorrow; rest, thou beloved, in the rock of the fold.

The peace of the holy peace be thine, beloved. The love of the holy love be thine, beloved.

The joy of the holy joy be thine, beloved,
On the arm of Jesus, the Christ of grace.

Rest, o rest in the guidance of guidance,
Rest, o rest in the love of all loves,
Rest, o beloved, in the Lord of life.
Rest, o beloved, in the God of life.

Rest, o rest in the calm of all calm,

Prayer of Thanks

Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as 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.

Announcements

Hymn of Sending

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#23 (In Babilone)

V1. There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.

V2. For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.

Benediction

Postlude

Prelude in G Minor

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

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:

Ushers: Anne Meyer Ruppel, Cheryl Rempel, Peter Heckman, Linda Larson, Pamela Thompson

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This Week at First UCC

Sunday, September 29

9:00 a.m. Reading Aloud Book Group
9:15 a.m. Faith Formation
9:15 a.m. Middle School Youth Group
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
5:00 p.m. High School Youth Group
6:00 p.m. Evening Service

Wednesday, October 2

11:45 a.m. NAIA Meeting
5:30 p.m. WFFF
6:00 p.m. Facilities Meeting
7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 3

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Knitting Meeting

Saturday, October 5

9:00 a.m. Carleton Choir Retreat

Sunday, October 6

9:00 a.m. Reading Aloud Book Group
9:15 a.m. Faith Formation
9:15 a.m. Middle School Youth Group
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
6:00 p.m. Evening Service

Leif Olsen, our Organ Scholar

We welcome Leif Olsen, who will be with us for 6 Sundays each semester as an organ apprentice. He will play hymns, service music, preludes and postludes, and sing with the choir. His position is funded by the endowment in honor of Theo Wee. Leif is a sophomore at St. Olaf, studying piano performance with Christopher Atzinger. He is also an organ student of Cathy Rodland and is excited to play organ at First UCC. In his free time, Leif enjoys singing in the St. Olaf Choir and playing word games with friends. Please welcome him to the First UCC family!

Special Offering - October 13

On Sunday, October 13, in honor of Indigenous People's Day, we will collect a special offering during worship. All loose money in the plate will go to Native Organizers Alliance in their work to help Native voters register and vote. The Beyond Land Acknowledgement team encourages you to come prepared to give generously.

Palestinian Olive Oil for Sale

Palestinian Fair Trade Olive Oil is for sale in the church office. There are two available sizes: 750ml for \$25 and 500ml for \$20. Cash and checks are accepted. Please make checks out to Fred Rogers with "Olive Oil" in the memo line. Please visit the church office if you are interested in purchasing some oil!

Nine to Dine

Time to sign up for Nine to Dine! If you'd like to meet new folks and eat good food, please contact Linda Wagenbach at ljwagenba@gmail.com. Sign up by October 1! See the Chronicle for details.

Volunteer for Coffee Hour

The team needs you! Consider volunteering for Coffee Hour after worship on Sundays from 11:30-12:30. If you are interested in and available to help, please go to firstucc.org/members-friends/ or scan the QR code to sign up.



The WFFF team could use you!

WFFF is starting up for the fall and the team could use your help! There are many different areas for you to sign up for. WFFF takes place on Wednesday nights during the winter season (September - May). If you're interested in volunteering, please scan the QR code, click the link in the Chronicle or go to <https://firstucc.org/members-friends/>.



Children's Faith Formation & Youth Group Sign-ups

Please see the information for each group in the Chronicle, at the QR code, or on the website at firstucc.org/members-friends/. If you have any questions, reach out to Kate in the church office. We're looking forward to seeing you this Faith Formation year!



Adult Volunteers Needed!

Are you looking for a jumpstart to your week? Volunteer with Faith Formation at UCC with the K-5th grade students. Nothing to prepare - just relationship building with youth and funny stories to take home with you! Sign up for one of the volunteer opportunities via the QR code or at firstucc.org/members-friends/.



Creation Justice Eco-info

Cell phones and other devices require many resources to make - and those resources are scarce. Please keep your devices as long as they meet your needs, and then see that they are recycled appropriately. Currently, 90% of phones are not recycled.

A Note from ISAIAH

If you took a Climate Hope Voter Pledge card home last week, please drop it in the collection plate during worship today or next Sunday! "By taking the pledge, you are making a sacred commitment to a more just and equitable world for people of all ages, races, and walks of life." Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

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, placing your gift in the offering plate, sending in your gifts via mail, or scanning the QR code!

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

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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: Anne Meyer Ruppel

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