

First Congregational United Church of Christ

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit and with the help of God,
we open our doors and hearts to all,
in service and love as modeled by Jesus Christ.*



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*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ten o'clock in the Morning*

The Worship of God

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by God's holiness; the nourishment of the mind with God's truth; the purifying of the imagination by God's beauty; the opening of the heart to God's love; the surrender of the will to God's purpose—all of this gathered up in adoration.

~William Temple

The Prologue

It is one of the most familiar, most iconic, stories in all the Bible, a parable for the ages. Long-known as the parable of *The Good Samaritan*, this classic tale of unknown origin describes the gospel of Jesus in a nutshell. To use an image from the prophet Amos, it is a plumb line! It answers all inquiries. It leaves no questions. No moral or ethical stone is left unturned. There is no "What part of this command do we not get?" "What do we not understand?" And yet, it may be the hardest, the most difficult admonition to embrace because following its dictates demands associating with people we would rather ignore, folks we would just as soon avoid all together. Human survival instincts have wired us to circle our collective wagons, to protect tribe and clan, to always be suspicious of the outsider whose motives are always unknown and which we cannot fully trust. Somehow, the gospel always provides a "here we go again" dilemma! It is a rule of golden proportions, a measure of our humanity, the sum of our human equation! It was what it was! It is what it is!

The Gathering Music

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

And also with you.

The Music for Contemplation

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Gathering

Wherever we go, be assured that we are in the presence of God! We come together to celebrate that holy mystery!

We have gathered before the One who has searched us and known us, discerning our thoughts, the holy and still speaking Spirit a mere breath away!

There is no way we can flee from God's presence! Before a word is on our tongues, the Holy One knows the thoughts of our hearts and minds!

In this sacred setting, no darkness abounds, for God shines in the midst! God's blessings are all around us! How wonderful is the creator we worship!

Let us worship God!

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of the prophets, we have gathered in this sacred setting to worship the One who brings the peace that only comes from the Holy, the One who enlightens us with the mystery of truth, empowering us to attain spiritual wisdom and understanding, leading us to lives worthy of our creator; we implore you not to leave us to our own devices, but to visit us once again as beloved faith community gathered together in this sacred space; intervene on our behalf in this time, parting the waters that separate us from you so we may walk unafraid; grant us courage to examine ourselves before you, opening our lives to your direction; lead us, we pray, from darkness into your brightest light; all this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen!

*The Opening Hymn, No. 25 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

*The Litany of Praise

God calls us together as a divine council, holding a plumb line to measure our faithfulness!

Who can stand before the judgments of God if God's grace were not sufficient for us? How shall we know what God expects of us?

Lift up your heartfelt prayers in God's mercy, earnestly seeking to know the ways of truth and salvation!

Can we distinguish faithfulness from popular success? What must we do to find peace and to ponder the hope of eternal life?

God judges the nations of the earth, looking to see where there is care and compassion, loving grace, mercy, and peace! God's covenant with us involves care for all people!

God delivers humanity from all evil, putting an end to the wickedness that threatens all creation! Praise the Lord!

*The Gloria

GREATOREX

*Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Comforter!
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end! Amen! Amen!*

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

AMOS 7:7-17

This is what God showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in God's hand. And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line!" Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel! I will spare them no longer! The high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword!" Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel! The land is not able to bear all his words! For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land!' " And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there, but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet nor a prophet's son, but I am a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel!' "Now therefore hear the word of the LORD! You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac!' Therefore, thus says

the LORD, your wife shall become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword and your land shall be parceled out by line! You yourself shall die in an unclean land and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land!"

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

Thanks be to God!

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 10:25-37

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself!" And he said to him, "You have given the right answer! Do this, and you will live!" But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy!" Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise!"

The Gospel for Today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

The Human Equation!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Anthem

Have Faith

Walt Harrah; arr. Jeff Lippencott

Chancel Choir

The Concerns of the Church

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father 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.**

The Receiving of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Christ all creatures here below!
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore!
Praise triune God whom we adore!*

*The Presentation of Our Gifts

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Closing Hymn, No. 464 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

*The Benediction

*The Fellowship Song *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

WORLD PEACE

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
With every step I take, let this be my joyous creed.
To take each moment and
live each moment in peace, eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

The Music for Reflection

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

*The color for the Season after Pentecost is Green, symbolizing the growth and development of the Church.
Various symbols of the Trinity, such as the Trefoil and Triangle designs used in our sanctuary, remind us
of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the Triune nature of God as Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit; Parent, Child, Advocate and Comforter; Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.*

*Ordinary Time refers to that part of the Church Year that does not fall within one of the major seasons and does
not observe any specific aspect of the Mystery of Christ. It consists of thirty-four Sundays in the liturgical
year counted backwards from the Reign of Christ and emphasizes personal faith development
and nurture, and the growth and enhancement of the Church and the churches.*

Worship Notes:

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Concerns of the Church

In accordance with CDC guidelines, wearing of masks is now optional. We will continue to register attendees upon their arrival. If we have cases of COVID within our congregation brought to our attention, we will notify everyone as soon as possible.

Prayer Concerns: As we worship today our thoughts are with Kamie Kolb, who has requested our prayers; and our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and for the families and friends of those who were murdered as a result of gun violence.

Scripture readers and ushers are always needed as well as readers for the Concerns of the Church. You may sign up by visiting our website or you may also contact Joy Turpin at joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com or 715-479-6560.

Just a friendly reminder! The last Sunday of the month is always *A Unity Service*, meeting at *Nine o'clock in the Morning*. Please put these services on your calendar.

Our *Unity Service* will be held outdoors here at the church on Sunday, July 31st at *Nine O'clock in the Morning*. Be sure and bring a chair to worship that day.

The Church Council is receiving nominations for Council membership including suggestions for president of the congregation. Please contact Mark Johannsen with your nominations. You can contact Mark by email at markjohannsen@gmail.com or by phone at 920-475-7576.

We currently have an overabundance of books and invite you to peruse those in the parlor and take whatever you please. Please!

Please remember to bring your change to contribute to the *Melody of Compassion* fund, the proceeds of which go toward helping those in our community who are in need.

Please sign the "Who's Who in the Pew" pads noting the service you attended.

There are people in the Northwoods who need our help. On July 22nd we will provide a meal for the residents of Frederick Place. Please see the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. We hope you can join us in serving the residents of Fredrick Place.

CHURCH STAFF

Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor

Debbie Brown, Church Administrator

Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education

Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music

Linda Brainard, Pianist

Norma Yaeger, Pianist

Christine Clough, Cleaning Service

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July 10, 2022