

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.*



*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Fourteenth 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

In today's lections we read two contrasting narratives that ironically seem to find some overlap, interesting intersections indeed. In the fascinating story of Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, this "mighty warrior" is given a single, simple assignment to be healed from a serious skin disease, no doubt the incurable affliction known as leprosy. Naaman refused this quick solution because this treatment fails to meet his eye test, the arrogant standards to which he believed he was entitled! In the Witness from the Gospels we find the story of the sending of the seventy-two, a major evangelistic missionary enterprise conducted back in the day. Whoever is not welcomed as an emissary of Jesus shall treat the offending party as the dust on the bottom of one's feet! As in much of life it is all about knowing when to say when!

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 Piano

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Gathering

The realm of God has come near! Enter this time of worship with joyous expectation, extolling the One who draws us near, rescuing us and restoring us to life!

Praise we will sing as the faithful of God, giving thanks to God's holy name, the One who has shown us favor in so many ways!

The Holy One has healed us, turning our mourning to dancing! Rejoice in the work you are given to do!

How thankful to know that our names are known to God! We will praise the Holy One and never be silent, giving thanks to God forever!

Let us worship God!

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

Gracious God, our helper, we have gathered to worship the One who brings healing to our lives, the One whose favor is for a lifetime; praises we bring before the Holy, rejoicing as we greet you this morning with joy and thanksgiving; we delight in your welcome, anticipating your word to us in this hour; show us this day what you would have us do, whether it be great or small; we long to follow your commandments, so let our ears be attentive to your word, and our hearts responsive to the opportunities you grant us to bear one another's burdens in the name of Christ Jesus; 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. 722

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

*The Litany of Praise

God hears our voices in the morning and hearkens to the sound of our cries!

In this house of worship, we seek the presence of God, standing in awe and wonder before the Holy, sensing transcendent Mystery!

God knows the intention of our hearts and is not deceived by actions that seem noble from a first glance!

We are not here to boast, but to pray, and to glory only in the cross of Christ Jesus.

God pours out steadfast love in abundance and leads us in the ways of righteousness!

Our hearts are sensitive to the subtlest and boldest of divine directions! We rejoice in being equipped to work toward God's harvest! 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

II KINGS 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go, then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his skin disease!" When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the

waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” So, he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God! His flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy and he was clean!

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

Thanks be to God!

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 10:1-11

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few! Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into God’s harvest. Go on your way! I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves! Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road! Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ And if a person of peace is there your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you. Cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The realm of God has come near to you!’ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you! Yet know this: the realm of God has come near!’

The Gospel of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Know When to Say When!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

The Service of Holy Communion

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. 357 *We Call Ourselves Disciples*

LANCASHIRE

*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 Piano

*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 sign in for worship. 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, June 26th 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 3, 2022