

First Congregational United Church of Christ
July 10, 2022



Photo by Brandon Morales
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere Musician: Linda Noble

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter:

Liturgist: Barb Bottger

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Luke 6:20-23)

*People who sit beside the lake: **Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.***

*People who sit with a fishing pole: **Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.***

*People who sit with a book: **Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.***

*People who nap: **Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you for the gospel's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.***

Words of Lament

Compassionate and Justice-Making God, compassion is running in short supply in our country and in our world. Justice also isn't overflowing our cups either. Our enemies have set a banquet to which we are not invited, except to serve it on our backs. Lead us beside the still waters, through this valley of death, to find your goodness and mercy. Anoint us, Creator of the Universe, to be bear your fruit, to proclaim your kingdom, to do justice where the shadows are the greatest. Give us bread for the journey. Amen.

Words of Blessing (Based on Psalm 25)

One: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let us be put to shame; do not let the enemy exult over us.

Many: Make us to know your ways, O LORD; teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for are the God of salvation, for you we wait all day long.

All: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, God instructs all in the way.

One: God leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble love's way.

Many: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep the covenant and the decrees.

All: May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

We Are Here

by Michael R. Burch

“We are here.” – Volodymyr Zelensky
We are here. We are here.
And we won’t disappear.
We are here. We are here. We are here.
We are here. Have no fear,
our position is clear.
We are here. We are here. We are here.
And yet we need help.
Will earth’s leaders just yelp?
We are here. We are here. We are here.
Our nation stands strong.
Will you choose right, or wrong?
We are here. We are here. We are here.
Now let me be clear,
Vladimir, dear:
WE are here. We are HERE. WE ARE HERE.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Luke 10:25-37 (New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition)

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ 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.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ 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.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

2nd Scripture Colossians 1:1-14 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, also gender neutralized)

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our sibling,

2 To the saints and faithful siblings in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father/Mother.

3 In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ, **4** for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, **5** because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel **6** that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. **7** This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, **8** and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. **11** May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from the glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully **12** giving thanks to God, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. **13** Christ has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the beloved Child, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Children's Message The Good Bad Guy

Message Bearing Fruit

Musical Reflections

Communion

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Mother 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Our Time of Giving

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.*

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Benediction

Sending Music