

First Congregational United Church of Christ

OCTOBER 16, 2022



Photo by Tehzeeb Kazmi

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentacost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Carol Mork Musician: Rovena Claxton

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Bruce Tyler

Liturgist: Sandy Stover

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship

People who love Fall's leaves: **Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

People who love cooler temps: **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

People who don't rake their leaves: **Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

People who like candy corn: **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.**

Words of Lament

Instigator God, you have called forth this world to live in harmony and have the foundations of love, justice, and mercy. Too often, we try to base our nations on power, pride, and wealth. The consequences are broken systems, hurting people, and a dying planet. Arise, O Restorer and Repairer of the Universe, rise up and strip away those things that destroy your blessed and beautiful creation and all life. Set us on the right path before its too late. Amen.

Words of Blessing (Based on Psalm 119:94-104)

One: I am yours; help me, for I have sought your covenant. I have seen the limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

Many: **Oh, how I love your covenant! It is my meditation all day long. Your covenant makes me wiser than those who oppose me, for it is always with me.**

All: I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.

One: I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.

Many: **How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

All: Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore, I hate every false way.

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.

Sonnet

by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Methinks ofttimes my heart is like some bee,
That goes forth through the summer day and sings,
And gathers honey from all growing things

In garden plot or on the clover leaf.
When the long afternoon grows late, and she
Would seek her hive, she cannot lift her wings,
So heavily the too sweet burden clings,
From which she would not, and yet would, fly free.
So with my full fond heart; for when it tries
To lift itself to peace-crowned heights, above
The common way where countless feet have trod,
Lo! then, this burden of dear human ties,
This growing weight of precious earthly love,
Binds down the spirit that would soar to God.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Jeremiah 31:27-34

²⁷ The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will plant seeds in Israel and Judah, and both people and animals will spring up. ²⁸ Just as I watched over them to dig up and pull down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring harm, so I will watch over them to build and plant, declares the LORD. ²⁹ In those days, people will no longer say:

Sour grapes eaten by parents

leave a bitter taste in the mouths of their children.

³⁰ Because everyone will die for their own sins:

whoever eats sour grapes

will have a bitter taste in their own mouths.

³¹ The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. ³² It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the LORD. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the LORD!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins

2nd Scripture 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 (The Message)

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ But don't let it faze you. Stick with what you learned and believed, sure of the integrity of your teachers—why, you took in the sacred Scriptures with your mother's milk! There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.

4 ¹⁻² I can't impress this on you too strongly. God is looking over your shoulder. Christ himself is the Judge, with the final say on everyone, living and dead. He is about to break into the open with his rule, so proclaim the Message with intensity; keep on your watch. Challenge, warn, and urge your people. Don't ever quit. Just keep it simple.

³⁻⁵ You're going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food—catchy opinions that tickle their fancy. They'll turn their backs on truth and chase mirages. But *you*—keep your eye on what you're doing; accept the hard times along with the good; keep the Message alive; do a thorough job as God's servant.

Gospel Luke 18:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Message **Rev. Carol Mork**

Musical Reflections

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

Our Father, Mother God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. The 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

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Benediction

Sending Music