



*An Open & Affirming Congregation of  
the United Church of Christ*

18 September 2022 – 10:30 AM  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**\*indicates the congregation is invited to stand.  
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

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PRELUDE

*People Get Ready*

Curtis Mayfield

Lori Rivera, vocals; Aidan Santa Cruz, piano

WELCOME

The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

\*GATHERING

**We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old – who yearn for your face,  
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in – the rich and the haughty, gather us in – the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lisa Hoesing, liturgist

One: We come into your courts, O God, with praise and thanksgiving.

**All: We come in celebration and song.**

One: We come as a people who have received blessing upon blessing,

**All: With gratitude for our inheritance.**

One: We hear the cries of the poor, and ache to offer relief.

**All: Guide us in your way, O God, that our prayer may beget works of praise!**

\*HYMN

Randy Scruggs & John Thompson

**Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

**God empower me to be a witness for you, acting boldly, in your name;  
Seeking justice, where there is hurting, off'ring hope where there is pain.**

\*PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:  
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.  
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.  
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.  
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.**

\*GREETING OF PEACE

WORD MADE PLAIN

children are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

May the peace of God surround you... **Like the trees towering in the forest!**

May the peace of God warm you all over... **Like the sun shining in the sky!**

May the peace of God rise and roll over you... **Like the waves rolling in the sea!**

May the peace of God fill you... **Like the wind stirring in your soul!**

May the peace of God surround you... [singing] **Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen...** [repeating]

Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer." Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty." And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.'

ANTHEM

*Have a Talk with God*

Stevie Wonder

SERMON

*Cooking the Books*

Pastor Dave

RESPONSE

South African Hymn

(Masithi:) **Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa**(Sing amen) **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**(Masithi:) **Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa**(Sing amen) **Amen, we praise your name, O God.****Amen, Bawo, Amen, Bawo,****Amen, amen, amen, amen,****Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa.****Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Dave

OFFERTORY

Invitation

[www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving](http://www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving)

Offertory Music

*Kyrie*

Art Alm

\*COVENANT

**We covenant with God and with each other:****to walk together in all God's ways as the Holy is revealed to us;****to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus' ministry in this church;****to celebrate through worship God's amazing gifts of unity and diversity;****to take up Christ's mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;****to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;****for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.**

\*HYMN

\*feel free to adjust gender

Isaiah Jones, Jr.

[chorus] **God has smiled on me, He (\*or She) has set me free.****God has smiled on me, He's (\*or She's) been good to me.****He is the source of all my joy, He fills me with his love.****The grace that I employ, He sends down from above. [chorus]****A light unto my path is He, My strength when I would fall.****He guides each day for me, God is my all and all. [chorus]****Come, feed the hungry, feed them well, extend the gracious feast.****And sound the justice bell, blessings upon the least!**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Serve Somebody*

Bob Dylan