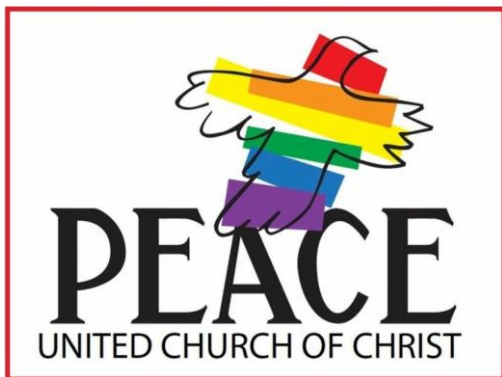




*An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

19 July 2026 – 10:30 AM
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

PRELUDE *Sometimes People Are Good* Fred Rogers
Luke Shepherd • piano & vocals

WELCOME The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

PREFACE adapted from *Genesis 28:10-17* James Weller, liturgist

One: Jacob went from Beersheba toward Haran and, as the sun set, he came upon a place to spend the night, found a stone on which to rest his head, and he lay down.

All: There he dreamed of a stairway to heaven, the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And he heard the voice of the Lord, "I am the God of your forebears, and I shall make a way for you to make a home in this land, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and your offspring."

One: Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, Surely the Lord is in this place – and I did not know it! Then he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place. This is the house of God, and the gate of heaven."

All: Jacob rose early the next morning, took the stone on which he had rested his head and set it up for a pillar. He anointed the stone with oil, and called the place Beth-el.

*HYMN 500 [hymn sheet] *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder* JACOB'S LADDER

*INVOCATION

*GREETING OF PEACE

GOSPEL *Matthew 13:24-30* James Weller

Jesus put before them another parable: "The realm of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in the field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the servants of the householder came and asked, 'Did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' The householder said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants replied, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But the householder said, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

MEDITATION "Beautiful City" from *Godspell* Stephen Schwartz

SERMON

Dreaming of That Day

Pastor Dave

RESPONSE

SPIRIT

**Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

...concluding with *A 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.**

OFFERTORY

Invitation

www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving



Offertory Music

"Till We Reach That Day" from *Ragtime*

Ahrens & Flaherty

*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 569 [hymn sheet]

Touch the Earth Lightly

TENDERNESS

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"No One Is Alone" from *Into the Woods*
Charlotte Munson, soprano

Stephen Sondheim

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

*Gen. 28:10-17**African-American spiritual*

1 We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der,
 2 Ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er,
 3 Rise, shine, give God glo-ry, rise, shine, give God glo-ry,

we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, bear-ers of the cross.
 ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, bear-ers of the cross.
 rise, shine, give God glo-ry, bear-ers of the cross.

Like many spirituals, this one uses a story from the Hebrew scriptures as its starting point and the element of the ladder as a creative device to draw us into the narrative. In like manner, the following twentieth-century adaption of the song by Carole Etzler employs the story of Sarah, the matriarch of the Hebrew people, and extends the direction of the pilgrimage from the upward climb of the ladder to the outward embrace of a circle.

Tune: JACOB'S LADDER 8.8.8.5.
African-American spiritual

Touch the Earth Lightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

Unison
Brightly

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 * 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Shirley Erena Murray's notes on this hymn state that the title line is borrowed from an Australian Aboriginal saying. The "clouds of disaster" mentioned in stanza 2 refer to nuclear testing by France, which New Zealand has protested at the United Nations many times.

Tune: TENDERNESS 5.5.10.D.
 Colin Gibson, 1992