



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

22 May 2022 – 10:30 AM
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

*PREFACE from *Psalm 112* Maryse Postlewaite, liturgist

One: Happy is the woman or man who reveres the FAITHFUL ONE, in whose commandments they deeply delight.

All: **They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; gracious, loving as would a mother, and righteous.**

One: It is well with the woman or man who is gracious and lends; they conduct their concerns with justice.

All: **Of evil tidings they have no fear, trusting in the WORTHY ONE.**

One: They disperse [their resources]; they give to the poor;

All: **Their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.**

***HYMN 583** *Like A Mother Who Has Borne Us* **AUSTIN**

*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

"Blessed Are All They that Fear Him," from *Elijah* Felix Mendelssohn

SCRIPTURE *Ruth 2:1-16* MARYSE POSTLEWAITE

Now Naomi had a relative through her husband, a warrior-hearted man of worth, from the family of Elimelech, and his name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose eyes I may find favor." Naomi said to her, "Go, my daughter." And she went, and came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she happened upon the part of the field that belonged to Boaz, who was from Elimelech's family. Then, suddenly, Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, "God be with you." They answered, "God bless you."

Then Boaz said to his boy stationed over the reapers, "To whom does this girl belong?" The boy stationed over the reapers answered, "She is the Moabite, the one who returned with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, 'Please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.' So, she came, and she has been standing from the morning until now, only resting in the shelter a little."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Have you not heard my daughter? Go not to glean in another field neither leave this one, thus you will cling to my girls. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow after them [the girls]. Have I not commanded the boys not to touch you? When you thirst, go to the vessels and drink from what the boys have drawn." Then she fell on her face and bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight, that you would distinguish me, as I am a foreigner?" And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been told to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband, that you have forsaken your mother and father and your native land and came to a people that you did know before yesterday. May the Holy One of Old reward your works, and may you have a full recompense from the Holy One, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge." Then Ruth said, "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and have spoken to the heart of your slave woman, and I, I am not one of your slave women."

Boaz said to her when it was time to eat, "Draw near, and eat from this bread, and dip your piece in the vinegar." And she sat beside the reapers, and he handed her some roasted grain; and she ate and was satisfied, and she had some left over. When Ruth got up to glean, Boaz commanded his boys saying, "She may even glean between the sheaves, and do not humiliate her. You must also pull out some for her from the bundles, and leave them for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

SERMON *Ruth: A Model Short Story for Our Times* The Rev. Dr. Susan Thistlethwaite

RESPONSE *Jubilate, servite* Songs & Prayers from Taizé

**Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to ev'ry heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Pastor Dave

OFFERTORY
Invitation www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving J.S. Bach
Offertory Music *When in the Hour of Utmost Need*

*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 576 *For the Healing of the Nations* WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565* J.S. Bach