

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church Of Christ



Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.

October 26, 2025

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

*Please rise in body or spirit.
You are invited to join in the liturgy **in bold type.**

Please wear a **name tag** so we can greet one another by name. There are blank name tags in the back of the sanctuary.

Childcare is available on the first floor of this building for children ages 0-4. Ushers can help direct you there. Children through 5th grade are invited to attend Godly Play Sunday School after the Message for All Ages.

PRELUDE – Sanctuary

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

arr. Lloyd Larson

*I am a temple, God's holy temple,
for His Spirit lives in me;
created as a sacred dwelling of the
most High God!*

John David Whitener, Jeremy Whitener, and Jeremy Carlisle

WELCOME

Rev. Katrina Forman

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Leah McCullough

One: We come to you, O God, to thank you for what is good.

All: We come to you, O God, to cry out for what is wrong.

One: We come to you, O God, to ask for help and restoration.

All: We come to you, O God, with aching hearts and glad souls.

One: Let us worship God.

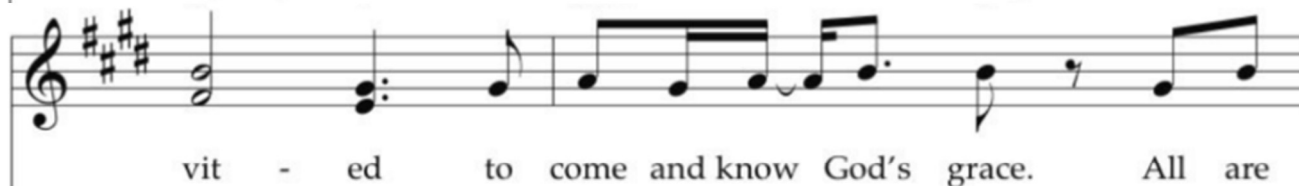
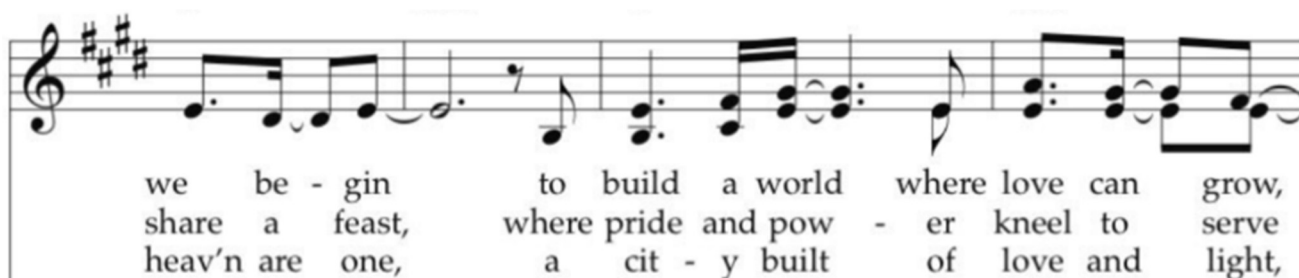
***HYMN (insert) – Let's Walk Together**

WELCOME

Words: Laurie Zelman

Music: Mark Miller

1 Let's walk to-gether for a while, and ask where
2 Let's talk to-gether of a time when we will
3 Let's dream to-gether of the day when earth and



PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Rev. Leah McCullough

God of all the saints, God of all the sinners, hear our prayer. We would be saintlike – holy, good, patient, loving. But we end up feeling more like sinners – full of failures of morality, selfish, mean. Perhaps You see us simply as human – as beloved, and flawed, and trying, and failing, and succeeding.

In all of this, forgive the wrong that we have done, and the bless the good we have accomplished. Keep on loving us, and helping us, and molding us more and more into the image of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 18:9-14

Rob Middleton

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

BJ Carter

SPECIAL MUSIC – The Last Words of David

Randall Thompson

*He that ruleth over men must be just,
ruling in the fear of God,
And he shall be as the light of the
morning, when the sun riseth,*

*even a morning without clouds;
as the tender grass springing out of
the earth by clear shining after rain,
after rain. Hallelujah! Amen.*

Sanctuary Choir

SERMON

“Together, Apart”

Rev. Katrina Forman

***HYMN (Black Hymnal #23) – There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy**

Arr: Julius Rongton

IN BABILONE

(next page)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

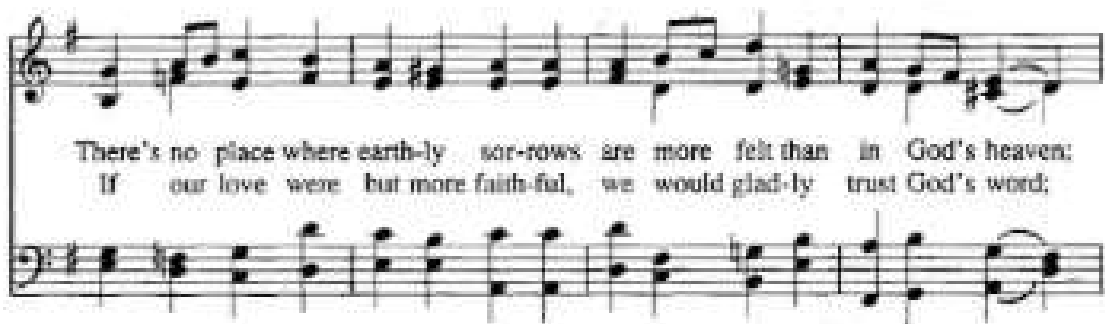
Frederick William Faber, 1834; alt.



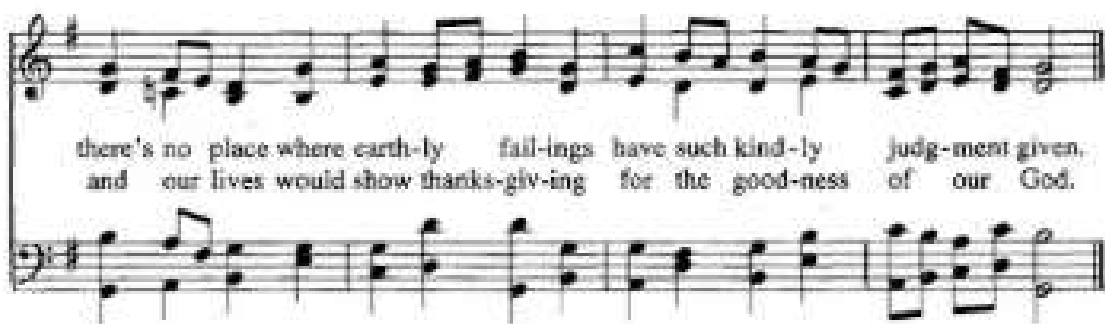
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty,
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.



There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-fal, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given,
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 139 hymns in correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABELONE 4757D.

Dutch melody

Arr. Julia Rönnegren, 1986

Alternate title: HOLY MANNA

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Katrina Forman

Joys and Concerns

Josh Robeson
Jonathan Grevatt

Leana Greene
Beth Pugh

Musical Call to Prayer – O Lord, Hear My Prayer Arr. Jacques Berthier

One: *O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.*

All: ***O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.***

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our {name for 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.

OFFERTORY

Invitation and Celebration of Ministry

Rev. Katrina Forman

*Response of Thanksgiving – Doxology

GOODNESS

Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. William B. Abernathy

Music: Paul M. Vasile

Praise to our God from whom all blessings flow; Praise to our God all creatures

4

here be - low; Praise to our God for all that love has done; Cre -

7

a - tor, Christ, and Spi - rit Our God the Three in One A - men.

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Rev. Leah McCullough

You have dealt wondrously with us, gracious God. We have gathered in Your name to praise you and to join in efforts to share faith with one another and with the world. Through our offerings, we wish to extend the witness made here into our neighborhoods, and in ever-widening circles, to the ends of the earth. Bless and multiply our efforts, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN (Black Hymnal #78) – Part in Peace**

Words: Sarah Flower Adams

CHARLESTOWN

Music: Carlton Young

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Katrina Forman

***CHORAL BENEDICTION #81 – God Be with You**

Words: Jeremiah E. Rankin

Music: William G. Tomer

*God be with till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

POSTLUDE - Excerpt from Intermezzo No. 2, Opus 118

Brahms

Jeremy Carlisle

THANK YOU for joining us for worship this morning.

Please sign a welcome card if you are visiting and put it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher as you leave, or scan the QR code on the pew in front of you.

THANK YOU Sunday Welcome Team and the Sanctuary Choir!

THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS are donated this week by the Governing Board in recognition of Rev. Katrina Forman's exceptional leadership and guidance.

LIVESTREAM VIDEO: Nkenge Jones, SOUND OPERATOR: Joe Cristiani

SMALL GROUPS THIS WEEK:

Daytime Bible Study Meets Tuesdays at 12:30pm in the Guild Room

Union Cong Chair Yoga Alternates In Person And On Zoom on Wednesdays

Email Sara T. at sgtamargo@gmail.com for the meeting location. 10:30am class.

Come Make A Joyful Clang! The UCC Ringers Handbell Choir Rehearses Wednesdays at 7pm In The Sanctuary. All levels welcome.

ALSO THIS WEEK:

JOIN REV. LEAH FOR PORCH TIME AT THE PARSONAGE (P1)

Wednesday, October 29, 2:30pm-4pm

MEN'S NOVEMBER BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 1 at 8am

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, November 2 at 11:30am

"PEACE BY PIECE" TOUR WITH CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE AND THE BETHLEHEM FAIR TRADE ARTISANS – Tuesday, Nov. 4, 7pm-8:30pm

Meet in the First Congregational Church's Guild Room for a conversation about peace building, economic justice, the current landscape in the Holy Land, and how Americans can support our siblings in the Middle East. Speakers include Destiny Magnett (Programs and Outreach Manager for Churches For Middle East Peace) and Suzan Sahori (Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans' Executive Director). First Cong is located at 40 S. Fullerton, Montclair. In partnership with Union Congregational Church and First Congregational Church.

Peace by Piece Tour

presented by **Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)**
& the **Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans (BFTA)**

Join us for a conversation about peacebuilding, economic justice, the current landscape in the Holy Land, and how Americans can support our siblings in the Middle East

Tuesday, November 4, 7pm - 8:30pm
First Congregational Church Guild Room
40 S. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair

Speakers



Destiny Magnett

CMEP Programs & Outreach Manager



Suzan Sahori

BFTA Executive Director

This program offers a unique opportunity to support Christian-led Palestinian craftspeople while fostering dialogue about paths toward peace and justice in the Holy Land.



PILGRIMAGE
TO PEACE



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NOVEMBER WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

On Saturday, November 15, at 9am, the Women Of Union welcome Bethany Hall, who will speak on how she became a comedian.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY NATURE WALK

On Saturday, November 15, 10am-11:30am, at Eagle Rock Reservation

CHURCH CONTACT INFO: Church Office: 973-744-7424

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Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
An LGBTQ+ Open and Affirming Congregation

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