



Kent United Church of Christ

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, W.I.S.E.,
and CREATION JUSTICE CONGREGATION*

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST October 18, 2026

BELLS

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace from Virginia Harmony

Bob Carlyon, organ

arr. Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

Vallorie Marsillo, piano

GREETING

Rev. Emily Culp Ashby, associate pastor for faith formation

*OPENING HYMN #408

All My Hope on God Is Founded

MICHAEL

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Crystal May, liturgist

One Band. One Body.

Many members.

One Sound. One Song.

Many voices.

One Truth. One Spirit.

Many stories.

No life stands alone.

We are strengthened by one another.

What the world calls weakness,

The Divine calls Beloved.

Our Bodies, minds, and spirits,

Created without hesitation,,

Beloved without exception.

Together, we are one!

*INVOCATION

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

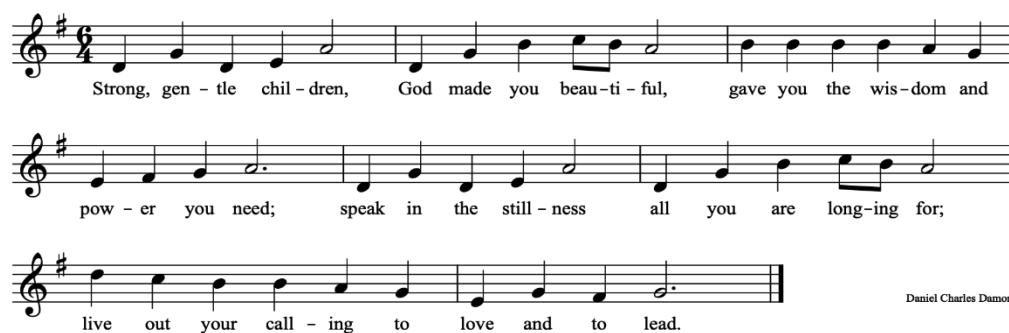
The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Emily

"Strong and Gentle Children" is sung to bless the children.



A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Here ends the reading from God's word.

Thanks be to God, who is still speaking.

SERMON

Pastor Emily

ANTHEM

Give Me Jesus

arr. Robert Lau (b.1943)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Emily

God of limitless compassion, your love has no limits, and your grace has no bounds. We celebrate accessibility that allows fuller participation in your world: ramps and elevators that uplift us, hearing devices that connect us, and sensory spaces that allow minds to map the world differently.

God, draw us closer to Access and Love.

And we realize that there is always more to be done. Our physical access has not accounted for every body. Our communication access has not accounted for every mind. Our culture still

prioritizes conformity over community, leaving others to mask their pain, exhaustion and true selves to fit in.

God, draw us closer to Access and Love.

God of justice, grant us wisdom to dismantle the system barriers that exclude. Give us the grace to embrace disability as an expression of your divine image. Provide rest for those weary from masking, and safe spaces where no one has to perform to be loved. Help us live deeply grounded in our bodyminds so that we can more fully celebrate the unique bodyminds of those around us.

God, draw us closer to Access and Love.

Let us continue the work of access! Let us celebrate that there are more ways than we know to love one another! Let us be bold, creative, thoughtful, empathetic, and faithful. Let us rejoice, knowing there is yet more wisdom to learn on this journey of access.

God, draw us closer to Access and Love. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

for Thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

MOMENT FOR MINISTRIES

Adult Learning Ministry

Jackie Peck, coordinator

HYMN OF COMMITMENT #507

Jesus, The Very Thought to Me

ST. AGNES

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Johnna Lillich

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Emily

*CLOSING HYMN #300

Jesus Shall Reign

DUKE STREET

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Emily

*POSTLUDE

Arioso (Thanks Be to God)

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

*Our service has ended. Now our service begins.
You are the Body of Christ, and the whole world awaits you.*

The chancel flowers are an offering from David and Kay Hansford in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.



WHAT IF THE WORD **HOMOSEXUAL**
WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE IN THE BIBLE?

JOIN US FOR A SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY

1946

THE MISTRANSLATION
THAT SHIFTED CULTURE

 **WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 4, 2026**

 **6:30 PM**

 **1400 E MAIN ST. KENT
IN VANMETER HALL**

  **KENT** 
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST