

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Twentieth-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday
October 29, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: The Holy One has been our hope and our home.

Many: God has been with us from generation to generation.

One: We flourish and fade, bloom and renew in God’s time.

Many: Our lives are temporal and precious and glorious.

One: May the compassion and favor of the Holy One be with us.

Many: May we be glad and prosperous in our work for our God!

One: Let’s worship God!

*Opening Song:

“The God of Abraham Praise”

#16

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of Life, your memory is longer than time; your love longer still. Your giving nature amazes us. You have given us yourself. You have given us your work. You only ask for love in return, for you and for the world. You put your ministry into our hands, trusting us to be your hands. Bless the work of our hands and the ministries of our hearts as we seek to do your will.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

As you know, God our healer, we stand on the edge of your promises and hopes, yet cannot seem to let ourselves cross over into the life you intend for us. We seek praise from our families, yet are unable to tell them how much we love them; we care more about our needs and desires, than for the struggles of our neighbors; we think more about the trash we read and see than focusing on the Spirit of wisdom. Forgive us, Everlasting God. Renew our lives with your grace; restore our hopes with

your vision of tomorrow; refresh our spirits with your joy which comes to us new in each moment in the gift of Jesus, our Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: This moment, this morning, this day, and in all the days to come, God's compassion and hope fill our lives. What joyous good news!

Many: Our hope is not in vain. God forgives our sins, and is the dwelling place for all people. Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe the day is coming when God’s grace will change the human heart, and we will live as one with every living thing.

We believe the day is coming when Jesus’ compassion will fill the earth, and no one will do harm, be hurt, or feel alone.

We believe the day is coming when the Spirit’s freedom will unbind our souls, and we will live generous lives for each other with a joy no circumstance can alter.

We believe the day is coming, and we wait and work for it with steadfast hope, for God has promised it, and God is faithful.

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

“A Re-formation Story”

Pastor Chris

Prayers of The People/The Lord’s Prayer (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

#34

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Giving God, we follow your example of the ministry of presence in the sharing of our resources. Prosper the work of our hands and minds and enable us to make a difference and participate in your kingdom through generosity.

***Closing Song:** “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” #84

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

Other Scripture Readings: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is by Kirsten Linford from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Still Speaking Devotional writer Mary Luti.

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Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett

Lector: David Burrow

Organist:

October Radio Sponsor: Larry & Sandy Person

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Birthdays: November 2-Don Marine; 4-Christine Burtnett

Sunday, October 29: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Tuesday, October 31: 9:30-11am. – Pastor at Feed Mill
5:30-7:30pm.- Trunk or Treat

Friday, November 3: 9:15-11:15am.-Care Center Worship

Saturday, November 4: Daylight Savings time ends. Turn back your clocks

Sunday, November 5: 10:00 am. – Worship with Communion
Sunday School
Coffee
Food Pantry



**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
165 Years**

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