



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Windows of Hope Series

July 28, 2024 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "God of Grace, God of Glory" Wayne L. Wold

(* *Indicates that all are invited to stand*)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (2)

One: In mystery and grandeur,

All: We see the face of God.

One: In earthiness and the ordinary,

All: We know the love of Christ.

One: In heights and depths, and life and death:

All: The spirit of God is moving among us!

*GATHERING HYMN “Come Now, Almighty God” #275 *New Century Hymnal* vv.1-3
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Come now, Almighty God, help us your name to laud;
Our songs we raise: ruler all glorious, o’er all victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!**

**Come now, Incarnate Word, by heaven and earth adored;
Our prayer attend: come and your people bless, and give your word success;
Grant us your holiness, Savior and Friend!**

**Come, Holy Comforter, your sacred witness bear
in this glad hour. Your grace to us impart, now rule in every heart,
never from us depart, Spirit of power!**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (1)

Holy God, we know that you are always there to lead us,
yet we somehow lose our way and fall back into fear.

**We confess that we have stumbled, and we recognize our need for you to lift us up
and help us start again.**

Forgive us our failings, restore us to strength, and reconcile us with you, ourselves, and each other, through the power of Christ and the gift of your Spirit. (*silent confession*)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

How much does God love us?

Enough to send the divine heart, hope, and spirit to us,
not to condemn us, but to make us whole.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Come Now, Almighty God” v.4

**To you, great One in Three, eternal praises be
Forever more. Your sovereign majesty, may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 14:23-29

Pew Bible pp.877-878

Revelation 21:10, 22-25

Pew Bible p.1008

A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” #117

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!

The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart

From earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here, Christ, abide!

Let me your inner presence feel; your grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;

Your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

RESPONDING

We respond to God’s Word through our prayers and our gifts.

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. 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

"Christ Be Beside Me"

Setting by David Christiansen

(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Amen, We Praise Your Name” #598 *Glory to God Hymnal*

Amen, we praise your name, O God! Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Amen, amen, amen, amen! Amen, we praise your name, O God!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***COMMISSIONING HYMN: "Praise with Joy the World's Creator" #273**

New Century Hymnal

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

**Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge, grace bestowing without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory, power to rescue and release.**

**Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry, frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick upsets religion, fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence—Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.**

**Praise the Spirit sent among us, liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender, age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure—foolishness none dare deride.**

**Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit, one God in Community,
Calling Christians to embody oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe when shown Christ's vibrant unity.**

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Trumpet Tune" from "Melodic Suite" Charles Callahan

SENDING

With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

Worship Endnotes

- (1) Adapted from www.ministrymatters.com.
- (2) Adapted from www.re-worship.blogspot.com

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Worship Leaders July 28, 2024

Pastor: Sarah Fredriksen McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Diane Muehlenbeck

Ushers: Members of the Hope UCC choirs

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Ron Geisel,

Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

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