**A Service of The Word and Sacrament**

**Trinity Sunday/First Sunday after Pentecost/Father’s Day**

**June 15, 2025**

**“The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious…..**

**Whoever can no longer wonder, no longer marvel, is as good as dead.”**

**Albert Einstein**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME AND GREETING**

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

**Praise be to God!**

**\*CHORAL GATHERING “Surely the Presence of the Lord”**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;**

**I can feel his mighty power and his grace.**

**I can hear the brush of angels’ wings; I see glory on each face;**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. (Second time—acapella)**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you

**As the day rises to meet the sun.**

**Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

We come together as the body of Christ to worship the living God.

**We are here to honor the God in whom we live and die.**

**We are here to humbly bow before the Holy One who gives hope beyond the grave.**

**We are here to listen to God’s Word.**

**We are here to be a community of faith, the Body of Christ.**

We, who are mortal yet created in the image of God, come together.

**Let us praise God.**

**Let us praise Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**

**Let us praise the Holy Spirit, the lifeblood of the church. Amen.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus,

**We give you thanks that by a sheer act of grace you have come to us. You came as an infant. You bore the joy and the misery of life. You lived among the broken-hearted. You embraced the outcast. You spoke truth to power. For your presence among us we give praise and thanks. Amen.**

**\*HYMN “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You” No.4**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O Searcher of hearts, you know us better than we know ourselves. You see the sins we ignore yet fester within us. You see the sins we try to rationalize away, yet they are real. You know the sins that have brought harm to others. We confess to you that the weight of our humanity is more than we can bear. We are wounded ones in need of your mercy. Heal us, we pray, with your spoken word of forgiveness. We pray, O God, for a new beginning, a new hope, and a new future through Christ our crucified Lord. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Almighty God have mercy on us. Almighty God, forgive us with your grace. Almighty God, restore to us the strength of our humanity that we may bless you in all goodness, in all truth, and all beauty. Amen.

\***RESPONSE “Alleluia” No. 765---4 Verses**

**PSALM 8**

(The prayer we’re about to offer to God is a hymn that celebrates God’s glory and the God-given dignity of our humanity. In joyful humility, let us pray……)

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

**Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

**what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,**

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

**the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**THE OLD TESTAMENT Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31** Kathy Aulik

Does not wisdom call and understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: “To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all who live. “The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, when he had not yet made earth and fields or the world’s first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker, and I was daily his delight, playing before him always, playing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

**SERMON ON THE STEPS “Proverbs 4:1”**

“Listen, children, to a father’s instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight,”

**\*HYMN “Where Love Is Found” No. 362**

**THE GOSPEL John 16:12-15** Kathy Aulik

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.  He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.  All that the Father has is mine. For this reason, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

**SERMON “The Glorious Wonder of Creation”**

**INGATHERING OF PRAYER CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.**

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

Let us share in the glory of God by aligning our resources to the kingdom of God, for the flourishing of our family, our faith community, and our world. As we trust in God’s provision, give generously to meet needs, to generate opportunity, and to express gratitude.

**\*OFFERING RESPONSE “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” No. 780**

**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.**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Providing, you take care of our bodies, our minds, and our souls. We trust you and your Holy Spirit to be our anchor, our rock, and our salvation. Receive the gifts we bring, O God, as we mean to be a community that is known for its joy, its kindness, and its empathy for others. We offer this prayer in the name of our resurrected Lord. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:**

The United Church of Christ practices an open table. Members and visitors are equally invited to share this sacrament with us.

Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread God be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Thanks, and praise, glory and honor are rightly yours, Lord God. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only One eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ’s death, we celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ’s return. We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith who witness to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of love and majesty,**

**the whole universe speaks of your glory,**

**O God Most High.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of our God.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

In the fullness of time, you gave us your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life. Obedient to your will, he gave himself over to death. On that night of his betrayal, as he sat at the table with his friends, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, shared it with his disciples, and said, “Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.” When supper was over, he took the cup, gave you thanks, and shared it with his disciples and said, “Drink from this all of you, this is my blood, poured out for you and for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, when you raised your Son from the dead, he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread. By the power of your Holy Spirit, we have continued to this very day in the practice of breaking the bread, pouring the cup, and offering to you our prayers.

**Come, Holy Spirit, Come! We humbly ask you to bless this bread, this cup and each of us with your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt and light for the furtherance of your will. Send us as your witnesses into the world, living the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP**

**SHARING OF THE SACRAMENTAL ELEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\*HYMN “Great Is Your Faithfulness” No. 423**

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**Damascus Project---Adult Education**

Fall (2025) courses include UCC Polity and History and Sunday by Sunday: Preaching and Worship Leadership, which is appropriate for members in discernment, supply preachers, or lay leaders who need to be able to preach or lead worship in their congregations.

This fall also brings Christology/Christ-Talk, taught by Dr. Trish Zimmerman, an associate professor at St. Olaf College and a member of First UCC in Northfield, Minnesota. Whether you’re taking the course as part of the sequence or simply want to spend a few weeks deepening your thinking about Jesus, you are welcome to register.

New is an intriguing leadership course, Prophets and Prophecy -- Then and Now. The course combines insights into the Hebrew prophets from the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Pressler the Rev. Dr. Alika Galloway.

**Your United Church of Christ Camps in Wisconsin**

United Church Camps Inc. invites you to the sacred experience of gathering at Moon Beach, Daycholah Center, and Cedar Valley. In these places set apart, you will be warmly welcomed by a loving community and have the time to connect deeply with God, nature, and each other.

These three settings offer year-round camps, retreats, and events for all ages. Moon Beach in the Northwoods, Daycholah Center on Green Lake in central Wisconsin, and Cedar Valley in the rolling countryside of southeast Wisconsin. Camp AweSum provides camp opportunities for children on the autism spectrum and their families.

The outdoor ministry of our church welcomes people of all faith backgrounds or no faith backgrounds. We provide comfortable accommodations, delicious meals, toasty campfires, and a team eager to serve you. Nature shares the wonder of the sun, stars, water, and trees. The Spirit of God will meet you here.