**A Service of The Word and Sacrament**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 20, 2025**

**“**“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much;

it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”

**Franklin D. Roosevelt**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**

**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** Psalm 42; John 6; Romans 8

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.**

Come and worship.

Be still. Praise God’s presence within and around you.

**As a deer longs for flowing streams,**

**So, my soul longs for you, O God.**

Come and worship.

Be still. Praise Jesus’ presence within and around you.

**You, O Lord, have words of eternal life.**

**You, O Lord, speak words of mercy.**

Come and worship!

Be still. Praise the Holy Spirit’s presence within and around you.

**For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**

**We are children of God, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

O God, heavenly Father,

**Your Son, Jesus Christ, enjoyed rest and refreshment in the home of Mary and Martha of Bethany: Give us also this same rest. Give us the will to love you and open our hearts to hear you. Strengthen our hands to serve you in ways that are real and tangible and life changing. We pray in the name of the One who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN “God of Grace and God of Glory” No.436**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All knowing God, we acknowledge to you, to each other, and to ourselves that we are not good listeners. We can be close-minded. We scoff when others disagree with us. We often presume that others are wrong, and that we are right, and that there will be no peace until they agree with us.**

**As we come before you in worship, O God, help us to heed your ‘still-speaking’ voice. Forgive us when our minds wander, when we lose focus. Forgive us when we are so full of ourselves that we are unable to hear the voices of the aged, the poor, the uneducated, and others we are tempted to ignore. Merciful God, help us to recognize our own spiritual poverty that we might come before you hungry and thirsty for your life-giving Word. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One fact remains that does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always. May God have mercy on us. May God forgive us with grace. May God restore to us the strength of our humanity as we live in community with God and each other. To God be the glory! Amen.

\***RESPONSE “Amazing Grace” No. 547**

**PSALM 52** Judy Wagner

(Faith requires of us, humility. In the prayer we’re about to offer to God the psalmist speaks a stern word against the practice of arrogance……)

Why do you boast, O mighty one,  
of mischief done against the godly? All day long

**you are plotting destruction.  
Your tongue is like a sharp razor, you worker of treachery**.

You love evil more than good,  
and lying more than speaking the truth.

**You love all words that devour,  
O deceitful tongue.**

But God will break you down for ever;  
he will snatch and tear you from your tent;  
he will uproot you from the land of the living.

**The righteous will see, and fear,  
and will laugh at the evildoer, saying,**

‘See the one who would not take refuge in God,  
but trusted in abundant riches, and sought refuge in wealth!’[

**But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.  
I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.**

I will thank you for ever, because of what you have done.  
In the presence of the faithful I will proclaim[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2052&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-14720d)] your name, for it is good.

**THE OLD TESTAMENT Amos 8:1-12** Judy Wagner

This is what the Lord God showed me—a basket of summer fruit.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Amos%208%3A1-12&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-22483a)] **2**He said, ‘Amos, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘A basket of summer fruit.’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Amos%208%3A1-12&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-22484b)] Then the Lord said to me,

‘The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass them by. The songs of the temple shall become wailings on that day,’ says the Lord God; ‘the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!’

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, ‘When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances,  
buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat.’

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

On that day, says the Lord God, I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day.

The time is surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.

**THE GOSPEL Luke 10:38-42** Judy Wagner

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so, she came to him and asked, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.’ But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.’

**SERMON ON THE STEPS “Distracted”**

**\*HYMN “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior” No. 551**

**SERMON “The Poor……Always the Poor”**

**INGATHERING OF PRAYER CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER** (St. John’s: *debts/debtors;* St. Paul’s: sins/sin against us)

**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*/sins), as we forgive (*our debtors*/those who sin 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.**

**THE OFFERING**

It is a beautiful thing to give, to share, and to anticipate the betterment of this community for the glory of God. As you feel led by God, let us continue our worship through the giving of gifts.

**\*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**

**Gracious God, breath your gift of life into us, we pray. Through all our existence here on earth, we mean to grow and mature into the image of your Son, Jesus Christ. Take our hand, we pray that we might be led in paths we would never traverse alone. All glory belongs to you through Christ our 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 “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant” No. 539**

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**United Church Men and Women**

**United Church Mena and Women have been supporting Ministry Professionals since 1937. This year’s banquet will be on October 30, 6:30 p.m., at Ebenezer United Church of Christ. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy of Eden Theological Seminary. The cost of the meal is $20. Registration at** [**www.ucmwscholarship.com**](http://www.ucmwscholarship.com) **or call Darryl Gumm at 920-917-8181.**