**ST. JOHN’S and ST. PAUL’S UCC**

**7th Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 27, 2025**

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME and GREETING

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

**PRAISE BE TO GOD!**

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

*One: The God of Peace*

**ALL: Calls us to worship together.**

*One: The God of Peace*

**ALL: Calls us to listen to God’s Word carefully, and act faithfully.**

*One: The God of Peace*

**ALL: Calls us to create peace sensitively and to maintain peace enthusiastically, in our homes, in our faith community, in our turbulent world**

*One: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ.*

**ALL: Amen.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**O God, your ears are open always to the prayers of your servants. Open our hearts and minds to you, that we may live in harmony with your will and receive the gifts of your Spirit, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SONG #84 This is the Day

SCRIPTURE READING Jessica Barts

**Genesis 18:20-32** (NRSV)

Then the Lord said,” How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know.” So, the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” Abraham answered “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” Again, he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” Then he said, “Oh, do not let my Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” Then he said, “Oh, do not let my Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.’

**Luke 11:1-13** (NRSV)

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” So, he said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. Give use each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.” And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him,’ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. “So, I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asked for an egg would give a scorpion? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

THE MESSAGE

SONG (On Monitors) “Thy Word” by Amy Grant

PASTORAL PRAYER (Joys and Concerns)

Lord’s Prayer (Unison)

**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.**

UNISON INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

*One: What can we offer, O God, when we reflect on all you have given us in Jesus Christ?*

**All: We will offer our time, talent, and treasure, committed to the One who gave all for us Amen**

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD #625 (While the offering is brought forward)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, you heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

RESPONSIVE OFFERTORY PRAYER

*One: Let us pray.*

**All: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things.**

*One: Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.*

**All: With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives of the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SONG #400 Christ is made the Sure Foundation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BENEDICTION

*One: As agents of compassion, we go forth!*

**All: We will share from our plenty. We will give for the needy. We will praise lavishly. We will encourage frequently. We will care passionately. We will love wholeheartedly.**

*One: And the God whose generosity was shown to us in Jesus Christ will go with us! Amen*

\*POSTLUDE