**ST. JOHN’S and ST. PAUL’S UCC**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 14, 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: When we gather together in this place.

**All: We gather with all the faithful in the world.**

One: When we gather together today, in this moment.

**All: We find ourselves with the faithful in every age.**

One: When we gather in the name of Christ!

**All: Time and distance fad away. We cease to be a collection of time-bound individuals. We become the Church – Christ’s own people. Let us celebrate our unity now!**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**You bring us together to worship. Give us joy and renewal. You bring us together to create community. Give us fellowship, encouragement, and holy energy. You bring us together to teach, to learn, to follow the way of Jesus Christ. Give us wisdom and inspiration. You bring us together to serve. Give us love that does not judge. Give us strength that heals and lifts up the poor. Amen.**

SONG #84 “This Is the Day”

SCRIPTURE READING Lucas and Leah Bender

**Numbers 21:4b-9**

**4**From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers%2021:4-9&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-4345a)] to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. **5**The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” **6**Then the Lord sent poisonous[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers%2021:4-9&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-4347b)] serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. **7**The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So, Moses prayed for the people. **8**And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers%2021:4-9&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-4349c)] serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” **9**So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

**John 3:13-17**

**13**No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203%3A13-17&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26124a)] **14**And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15**that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203%3A13-17&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26126b)]**16**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.**17**“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

THE MESSAGE **Lifted Up**

SONG (on monitors) “You Raise Me Up” – Josh Groban

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RESPONSIVE INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One: All around us are the signs of God’s goodness and providing.

**All: All around us we see God’s gifts to us**.

One: Light and life, hope, and peace.

**All Let us share with our brothers and sisters what has first been shared with us.**

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: Bless these gifts, O God, for they are a sign of hope in a troubled world.

**All: Through them the lonely will come into community**

One: Through them you Word will be heard.

**All: Through them the poor will be supported**.

One: Through them the bereaved will receive comfort.

**All: Through them the Way of Jesus Christ will be followed**.

SONG #303 “Rejoice Give Thanks and Sing”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BENEDICTION

One: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you in favor and give you peace.

**All: Amen!**

\*POSTLUDE