**ST. JOHN’S and ST. PAUL’S UCC**

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 19, 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: A miracle happens when our diversity is joined with our unity!

**ALL: THE MANY BECOME ONE IN CHRIST. WE ARE EACH UNIQUE, YET UNITED IN WORSHIP.**

One: Together we know we are greater than the sum of our parts.

**ALL. THE BODY OF CHRIST IS WHO WE BECOME, WHEN WE JOIN TOGETHER TO SING AND PRAY.**

One: We join together to speak and hear, to serve and share.

**ALL: WE ALWAYS MAINTAIN OUR UNIQUESNESS, YET NOW, TOGETHER, WE ARE THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Let us pray.

**ALL: GRACIOUS AND LOVING GOD, MEET US IN THIS TIME AND PLACE. BRING YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AMONG US. TOUCH US, HOLD US, AND TRANSFORM US DURING THIS TIME OF WORSHIP SO THAT WE KNOW THAT BEING HERE HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE – A DIFFERENCE IN THE WAY, WE SEE YOU, SEE OURSELVES, SEE ONE ANOTHER, AND SEE OUR WORLD. BLESS US WITH A GIFT OF POWER. MAKE US MORE FULLY YOUR OWN. IN JESUS’ NAME WE PRAY. AMEN.**

SONG #573 “Lead on Eternal Sovereign”

SCRIPTURE READING Cash Heling/Huck Duening

Luke 18:1-8

**The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge**

18 Then Jesus[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2018%3A1-8&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-25681a)] told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. 2He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. 3In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ 4For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, 5yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2018%3A1-8&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-25685b)] 6And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? 8I tell you; he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Genesis 32:22-31

**Jacob Wrestles at Peniel**

**22**The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. **23**He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. **24**Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. **25**When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. **26**Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” **27**So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” **28**Then the man[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2032%3A22-31&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-957a)] said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2032%3A22-31&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-957b)] for you have striven with God and with humans[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2032%3A22-31&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-957c)] and have prevailed.” **29**Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. **30**So Jacob called the place Peniel,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2032%3A22-31&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-959d)] saying, “For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved.” **31**The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

THE MESSAGE **The Change Everyone Can See**

SONG (on monitors) “I Will Sing Your Love, Love, Love by Christopher Grundy”

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: Let us now draw our focus to our response to God’s Word.

ALL: WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE, AND WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GIVE.

One: You have made us holy vessels, God, to bear your love and generosity.

ALL: BLESS US NOW AS WE POUR OUT THE GIFTS YOU HAVE FIRST GIVEN 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.

UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER

ALL: LOVING GOD, YOU WILL TURN THESE GIFTS INTO SMILING FACES, NEW ENDEAVORS, WORDS OF COMFORT, MOMENTS OF REFLECTION, PEACE, AND JOY. YOU WILL ENABLE THESE GIFTS TO WORK AMONG US AND OUR NEIGHBORS, AND TO HELP THE DISTRESSED IN DISTANT LANDS. YOU WILL MAKE THESE GIFTS A BLESSING TO MANY AND FOR THIS WE THANK YOU. AMEN

SONG # 492 “I Would Be True”

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