



WELCOME TO  
MORNING WORSHIP



Sunday, November 22, 2020

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF  
THIS BULLETIN ARE  
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- FIRST -  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BETTER TOGETHER  
Loving God | Helping Others | Finding Joy

RETURNING TO CHURCH PLAN  
WHAT TO EXPECT FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

- **Please Stay Home if you have any cold/flu/COVID symptoms**
  
- **If you receive a diagnosis of COVID-19**, please inform the church office (*anonymity will be maintained*) for contact tracing purposes and to keep the remainder of the congregation safe and healthy.
  
- Please wear a mask
- Please allow ushers to create socially-distanced seating
- Please use hand sanitizer upon entry and exit of building
- Please do not share bulletins, they may be discarded before exiting
- Ventilation enhancements have been made to our facility
- We will keep doors open so you may avoid touching surfaces
- Facility is thoroughly cleaned in between worship services

If you would like to respond to the call to worship and prayers, please plan to use a (provided) N95 mask. *An usher can assist you.*

We look forward to continuing to worship Christ together as a First Church Family and continue on our Journey of Loving God, Helping Others and Finding Joy!

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

“Thanksgiving Suite” I. Fanfare III. Thanksgiving  
Charles Callahan

© 1988 Morning Star Music Publishers

Performed by Ed Swartz

## HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Performed by Nancy Chmielewski

***The congregation should refrain from singing.***

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
4 For the church that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,  
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our race so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
of - fering up on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love,  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.  
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher (1786-1872); arr. William H. Monk (1823-1889)

DIX  
7.7.7.7.7.7.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALLING BELL

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 15:8-10 (NRSV)

Pastor 1: Hear the words of thanksgiving in this parable about a woman and a lost coin, Luke 15:8-10: <sup>8</sup>“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Pastor 2: These words remind us that there is thanksgiving by angels in heaven when sinners repent. Let us all affirm the truth of these words by silently saying, Amen.

### CALL TO CONFESSION (*Pastor*)

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Pastor*)

Holy One, too often we act as fools. If we are honest with You, we can confess that there have been times when our faith has faltered and we say in our hearts, “God does not care.” Too often the ways we behave, the plans that we make, do not include You. Too often our prayers contain more complaints than thanksgiving. Too often we have turned away from Your path. Too often we ignore those who are suffering both here in our town and around the world. We confess that too often we have missed the mark. Yet we can have hope because You love us beyond measure. Help us embrace that love and live in ways that are pleasing to You. Amen.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Pastor*)

## WORD

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 107: 1-22 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. <sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble <sup>3</sup> and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. <sup>4</sup> Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; <sup>5</sup> hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. <sup>6</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; <sup>7</sup> he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. <sup>8</sup> Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. <sup>9</sup> For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things. <sup>10</sup> Some sat in darkness and in gloom, prisoners in misery and in irons, <sup>11</sup> for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. <sup>12</sup> Their hearts were bowed down with hard labor; they fell down, with no one to help. <sup>13</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; <sup>14</sup> he brought them out of darkness and gloom, and broke their bonds asunder. <sup>15</sup> Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. <sup>16</sup> For he shatters the doors of bronze, and cuts in two the bars of iron. <sup>17</sup> Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; <sup>18</sup> they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. <sup>19</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; <sup>20</sup> he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. <sup>21</sup> Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. <sup>22</sup> And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 107: 22-43 (NRSV)

Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters; <sup>24</sup> they saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in

the deep. <sup>25</sup> For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. <sup>26</sup> They mounted up to heaven, they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their calamity; <sup>27</sup> they reeled and staggered like drunkards, and were at their wits' end. <sup>28</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out from their distress; <sup>29</sup> he made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. <sup>30</sup> Then they were glad because they had quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. <sup>31</sup> Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. <sup>32</sup> Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders. <sup>33</sup> He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground, <sup>34</sup> a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the wickedness of its inhabitants. <sup>35</sup> He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. <sup>36</sup> And there he lets the hungry live, and they establish a town to live in; <sup>37</sup> they sow fields, and plant vineyards, and get a fruitful yield. <sup>38</sup> By his blessing they multiply greatly, and he does not let their cattle decrease. <sup>39</sup> When they are diminished and brought low through oppression, trouble, and sorrow, <sup>40</sup> he pours contempt on princes and makes them wander in trackless wastes; <sup>41</sup> but he raises up the needy out of distress, and makes their families like flocks. <sup>42</sup> The upright see it and are glad; and all wickedness stops its mouth. <sup>43</sup> Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

Pastor 1: The word of the Lord.

Pastor 2: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Psalms of Thanksgiving"  
Jon Bauman

SPECIAL MUSIC "For the Beauty of the Earth"  
tune by Conrad Kochler, arr. Van Denman Thompson  
© 1947 Lorenz Publishing Co.  
Performed by Ed Swartz

## THE APOSTLES CREED (*Pastor*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Pastor*)

### OUR LORD'S PRAYER (*Pastor*)

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.

## OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER (*Pastor*)

### SENDING

INVITATION (*Pastors*) *Those who are able are invited to stand*

Pastor 1: Jesus invites us to believe in Him and act on our belief.

Pastor 2: He says, "Here I am. I stand at the door and knock; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in."

Pastor 1: When you open your door, we rejoice, as you experience Him in your heart and look forward to eternal life.

Pastor 2: He says, "If anyone loves me, he will keep My word and My Father and I will make our abode with him.

Pastor 1: Merciful God, we rejoice with You for all who are saved by belief and grace and all who keep Your word to love others as themselves. Amen.

*If you have professed faith in Jesus for the first time or have committed yourself anew to grow as a disciple, please inform the pastors.*

CHARGE (*Pastor*)

BENEDICTION (*Pastor*)

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***You may discard this bulletin in the containers provided, if you choose. Please do not share with others.***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FAMILY THANKOFFERING 2020

*From Barbara S., Women's Guild President*

I apologize that this announcement did not come out sooner. I am out of kilter and I imagine many of you are too. The guild has not been able to meet since February but we hope to remedy that very soon. The weeks seem to go slowly and yet, we wonder where the months have gone. Even though our wood is stacked in preparation for winter, mentally I am not ready!

Our traditional guild Family Thankoffering was not able to be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> (the second Sunday in October) due to COVID. However, as always, we **are** taking the Thankoffering and there is a special envelope in your packet. **COVID has disrupted our lives but not our hearts!**

Seeing the recent devastation of the hurricanes in the south and the flooding that followed, the guild is designating that the offering be sent to the UCC Disaster fund for 2020 hurricane and flood damage

in Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama. I think that many of you, like me, are acutely aware of the damage flooding can do.

We understand that not everyone is in a position to give large amounts, but anything you can give to help these individuals and families that have suffered such a terrible loss would be very much appreciated.

Donations to Thankoffering can be made for through November. If you have misplaced your Thankoffering envelope or wish to make an additional offering, please write Family Thankoffering on the check or other envelope. And if you want credit please be sure your name or envelope number is enclosed with your donation.

Questions can be directed to Barbara by calling her or by email [womensguild@firstucc.net](mailto:womensguild@firstucc.net). Thank you in advance for your gift to help these folks in need.

**If you receive a diagnosis of COVID-19,**  
please inform the church office (*anonymity will be maintained*)  
for contact tracing purposes & to keep the remainder  
of the congregation safe and healthy. *Thank you!*

Please note that there will be NO in-person worship next Sunday, November 29.

Please pray for the family and friends of Betty Zuck, who passed away on November 17.

JOIN US THIS AFTERNOON for the worship service ordaining and installing Jon Bauman as Associate Pastor. *Please note that this service is available **virtually only** if you have not pre-registered:* Live Streaming on our Facebook, Zoom Call-In & Video Worship, (to call in from your phone (audio only) call: 1 301 715 8592, if required, please enter meeting ID 965 905 9323), to join the zoom video worship, please go to: <https://zoom.us/j/9659059323>, and to view the recorded Worship (available after worship has ended) at

our YouTube channel. Please join us in celebrating and congratulating Jon by sending cards to him at the church office!

November 26 - THANKSGIVING DINNER - We look forward to a take-out style Thanksgiving dinner for the community and congregation - in-person outside and grab-and-go style on Thursday, November 26 beginning at 12:30. If you can help to set up or clean up, please reach out to Alyse F. or Daniel S. if you are interested in helping pull this together. We are looking for bagged cookies or brownies and monetary gifts, which can be brought to church on during office hours (Monday or Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m.) *Thank you!*

HARVEST HOME OFFERING - This offering is being evenly split for two worthy causes between First Church's local benevolence mission (which is used by the pastors to assist people in our church and local community who are in need) and the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference's special assistance for retired pastors (which supplements the cost of retired pastors' health benefits). As we give thanks for God's blessings, let us share with others in this time of Thanksgiving. *Contributions to the Harvest Home Offering may be made until noon on December 30.*

BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME - The Women's Guild is accepting donations toward the Bethany Children's Home Christmas. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in an envelope and mark it Women's Guild for Bethany. Checks are to be made payable to First UCC Women's Guild.

November 30 - HAPPY 99<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY to Agnes L. Please celebrate with Agnes by sending cards to her at home or through the Church Office.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED for 2021 Church Council. If you are interested in serving, or if you have questions about serving on Church Council, please speak to the Pastors or any Council member.