



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 (Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, September 27, 2020 – Online



OPENING MUSIC "Simple Gifts" Copland

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Jesus, Name Above All Names" Hearn

CALL TO WORSHIP

In offering prayers and praise, in our words of wonder, God gives us joy to live each day. In seeking justice for the oppressed, in extending unexpected generosity for the lost, God fills us with compassion each day. In the promises for all, in the mercy for each, God gives us grace to make it through each day. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of Glory, Lord of Love
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Opening to the sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away.
 Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays.
 Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
 Chanting bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee!

Mortals, join the mighty chorus Which the morning stars began;
 Love divine is reigning o'er us, Leading us with mercy's hand.
 Ever singing march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife.
 Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life!

CCLI Song # 25321 Edward Hodges | Henry Van Dyke | Ludwig van Beethoven
 © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain

FIRST READING **Philippians 2:1-4** (*The Message*)

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*— then do me a

favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

SHARING AND PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

MUSIC "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" Converse

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

OFFERTORY "Fairest Lord Jesus" *Deutsche Volkslied*

Jesus invites us into community, not simply for the fun of being together. His invitation is one of support, of knowing we have one another—even when it feels as though we are completely isolated. Jesus' life reminds us that through the highs and lows, something greater binds us together. We commit our lives and our resources to finding new, innovative ways to continue to walk with Jesus, even during this season of pandemic. We appreciate your commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able. Thank you. To give online, you may go to: <https://www.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

or mail your offering to **Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136**. You may also save a stamp and drop your envelope in the church mailbox at any time.

DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS

SECOND READING **Philippians 2:1-11** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields



Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Riley Hawk, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, George Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Tony Koussa, Lori Kovatich, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Judi Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Ron, Yvonne, & Ronnie Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Ruby Cuyler (Sam's sister), Elaine Franzen (Barbara Craig's mom), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Sherry Sheeks (Mark Camp's sister), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Brad Williams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

BLESSING OF THE BEASTS

Sunday, October 4, in addition to our recorded Service of Holy Communion, Pastor Heidi will be honoring St. Francis of Assisi with a **Blessing of the Beasts**. Round up your four-leggers, your reptiles (in cages, please!) and even your stuffed furry friends, and join us between **10:00 and 12:00** to drive



through the church parking lot and have your animals receive a blessing (and possibly a treat, as well)! We look forward to trying this fresh expression of our faith in the One who created every living thing and called them *blessed*. Questions? Give the church a call or drop an email off to strongsvilleucc@gmail.com.

COMING SOON...

Sunday, October 11, at 10:00, we will celebrate the 203rd Anniversary of Strongsville United Church of Christ with an **In-person Worship Service**. The service will be contemplative in nature. Tom Foley will provide reflective piano music during the service. Here is what you need to know and do if you wish to participate:

- ♥ **The service will be held in Pilgrim Hall.**
- ♥ **Masks are required.** If you do not have a mask, we will have some available.
- ♥ **Temperatures will be taken** before you enter the worship space. (If you are feeling unwell, or if you have an underlying health condition, including age, please stay home, even if you have made a reservation.)
- ♥ **Hand sanitizer** will be available.
- ♥ **Reservations are required!** Attendance will be limited to only **40 guests**, in family groups as arranged in advance. Please call the office by **Noon on Friday, October 9th** if you are interested.

Entry into the building will be through the parking lot doors; exit will be through the north door of Pilgrim Hall. **The doors will open at 9:55.** After the service, folks are invited to exit Pilgrim Hall and continue their fellowship in the parking lot. We look forward to this celebratory event!

Please note: This service will **not** be recorded. However, your Worship Team will continue recording the usual service in the Sanctuary, posted to YouTube on Sunday morning.

