



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 (Congregational)
 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
 (440) 238-6697
StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday, February 7, 2021 – Online

OPENING MUSIC "Agnus Dei" Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Sanctuary" Thompson/Scruggs

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wherever, whenever, we pause to worship God, whose creative imagination never fails. With the eyes of God, we search for the outcasts, leading them home to Love. We pause to praise God, whose steadfast love never weakens nor fails. Offering the love of Jesus, we lift up the fallen, sharing our burdens and our joys. We pause to offer our best to God, who walks with us always. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we walk with the weary, as Jesus walks with us. **Amen.**

HYMN "Holy Ground"

We are standing on holy ground.
 And I know that there
 Are angels all around.
 Let us praise Jesus now;
 We are standing in His presence
 On holy ground.

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 And I know that there
 Are angels all around.
 Let us praise Jesus now;
 We are standing in His presence
 On holy ground.

CCLI Song # 21198 Geron Davis © 1983 Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Songchannel Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

FIRST READING **Isaiah 40:21-24** (New International Version)
 Do you not know? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?
 Have you not understood since the earth was founded?
 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
 and its people are like grasshoppers.
 He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
 and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
 He brings princes to naught
 and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.
 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown,
 no sooner do they take root in the ground,
 than he blows on them and they wither,
 and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

SHARING AND PRAYERS

MUSIC "How Beautiful" Paris

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

OFFERTORY "On Eagle's Wings" Joncas

In the midst of this winter wonderland, we remember warm summer breezes. As the pandemic drones on, we recall gentle hugs and caring words—face to face. We again commit our lives and our resources to continuing our walk with Jesus, together, remembering that Jesus calls us to love, no matter what. 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.myeoffering.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.

SECOND READING **Isaiah 40:25-31** (New International Version)

"To whom will you compare me?
 Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.
 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
 Who created all these?
 He who brings out the starry host one by one
 and calls forth each of them by name.
 Because of his great power and mighty strength,
 not one of them is missing.

Do you not know? Have you not heard?
 The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
 He will not grow tired or weary,

and his understanding no one can fathom.
 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;
 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.
 They will soar on wings like eagles;
 they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

REFLECTION

Shock and Awe

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We walk through life, confident and strong, boasting of our many achievements. But God sees the hurts we have inflicted on others, the bad choices made along the way, and the time wasted over trivialities. Come to God, for the One who listens to our faltering words is the One who extends to us unlimited grace and mercy. Join me as we pray together:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

We cannot hide from you, Everlasting God. You speak to us of compassion, but the ways in which we treat others show we have not been listening. You show us your path; yet we set out on our own, often in the opposite direction! We run as fast, and as far, from you as we can, seeking Jesus without realizing he has already found us. You find us in all the deserted places we flee to, taking us by the hand again to show us the Way to life with you. Heal our broken hearts, O God, so we can offer healing to others. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Listen once more! God never tires out, never stops offering forgiveness. God is always with us, healing us with mercy, and strengthening us to serve others.

ALL: God has numbered the stars; surely, our names are known by the One who loves us and offers us grace. This is indeed good news for all! Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

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.

HYMN

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

Sing praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,
 The God of power, the God of love, The God of our salvation.
 With healing balm, my soul he fills And every faithless murmur stills:
 To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, But through all grief distressing
 An ever-present help and stay, Our peace and joy and blessing,
 As with a mother's tender hand, He leads his own, His chosen band:
 To God all praise and glory!

Let all who name Christ's holy name Give God all praise and glory;
 Let all who own His pow'r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.
 Cast every idol from its throne, For Christ is Lord and Christ alone:
 To God all praise and glory!

CCLI Song # 3926004 Dennis Allen | Frances Elizabeth Cox | Johann Jakob Schütz © Words: Public Domain Music: Bohemian Bretheren's *Kirchengesänge*, *Mit Freuden Zart* (With Tender Joy), Berlin 1566

BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“They'll Know We Are Christians”

Scholtes

SERVING

TODAY – FEBRUARY 7

NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 14

Irene Joyce	Liturgist	Irene Joyce
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Doug Thorn	Sound/Video	Doug Thorn
Chuck McDougall	Video	Chuck McDougall
Sarah Keenen	Special Music	Venner Clarinet Quartet

The steeple will light the sky this week—

In celebration of Ella Hayes' 3rd Birthday on February 5th



Many thanks to Sarah Keenen for being a part of today's service!

Happy Birthday today to Aylah Purdum!



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 3,534.00
Difference (-\$ 115.37)

Thank you very much for your support of our church and its ministries

Additional song credits

Agnus Dei CCLI Song # 626713 Michael W. Smith © 1990 Sony/ATV Milene Music (Admin. by Sony/ATV Music Publishing)

Sanctuary CCLI Song # 24140 John W. Thompson | Randy Scruggs © 1982 Full Armor Publishing Company (Admin. by Peermusic III, Ltd.) Whole Armor Publishing Company (Admin. by Peermusic III, Ltd.)

How Beautiful CCLI Song # 443594 Twila Paris © 1990 Ariose Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

On Eagle's Wings Michael Joncas, arranged by Jack Schrader Lyrics based on Psalm 91 © 1979, 1991, 1997 New Dawn Music, Oregon Catholic Press

They'll Know We Are Christians CCLI Song # 26997 Peter Scholtes © Words: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Music: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

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LENT IS COMING.

As Lent approaches, we are offering a packet of helpful and fun items and devotional activities for you to use to enhance your Lenten journey.

If you are interested in receiving a packet, please stop by the church and pick one up during church office hours (M-F, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

PENNY SUNDAY TO BENEFIT THE FOOD BANK



It's not too late to drop off your coins, dollars, and checks to the Penny Sunday collection. Please stop by during church hours: Monday or Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. this week if you would still like to support the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

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

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



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), 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), Richard Sazima & Kathy Sazima (Judi Pavisich's friends), Anneke Scholtz (Irene Jannsohn's sister), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung'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.



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church.

ANNUAL WINTER RETREAT

Our Retreat would have taken place at Tempel Hills next weekend, had it not been cancelled for safety reasons. Why not do something special with your family this week?

Sledding, hiking, snacking, playing, and praying—the things we love about Retreat—as we dream of next year. **Please save the dates for President's Day weekend, February 18-20, 2022!**



GIFT CARDS

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH.



You may order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. You may arrange to pick up your cards at the church office with your payment at a convenient time. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!**

CHURCH LOCKS



The outdoor locks to the church, including the parking lot doors, the Royalton Road doors, and the kitchen have been changed. Church officers: please contact the office to be issued a new key.

Psalm 91

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress my God in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night nor for the arrow that flieth by day nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him I will be with him in trouble I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.