



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 (Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, July 5, 2020 – Online
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

OPENING MUSIC "Wade in the Water" Spiritual

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "America the Beautiful" Ward

CALL TO WORSHIP

Like a father who comforts his children during thunderstorms, you cradle us in your arms, Loving God. Like a mother who whispers encouragement to her child who knows they are different, you remind us that just as we are, we are your beloved children. You stay by our side, there when we need you, Friend of our hearts. You open our hearts to the grace we cannot see. You show us how close we are to your community. You help us to learn to whisper, "Peace be with you" to each person we meet. Like family, you are always there for us, in every moment. Together, in gratitude, we say: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN "We Gather Together"

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
 He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
 The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
 Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
 Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
 So from the beginning, the fight we were winning;
 Thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
 And pray that Thou still our Defender wilt be.
 Let Thy congregation escape tribulation:
 Thy name be ever praised; O Lord, make us free!

FIRST READING **Psalm 145:8-13** (*New International Version*)
 The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
 slow to anger and rich in love.

The LORD is good to all;
 he has compassion on all he has made.
 All your works praise you, LORD;
 your faithful people extol you.
 We tell of the glory of your kingdom
 and speak of your might,
 so that all people may know of your mighty acts
 and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
 and your dominion endures through all generations.

SHARING AND PRAYERS

MUSIC "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" Spiritual

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

OFFERTORY "Native American Flute Melody" Mehalko
 From end to beginning, God is with us. God is with us as inquisitive children; as parents learning that children have no instruction manual; as we grow in years and wisdom; as we gather or as we remain apart. Together, day by day, we commit our lives and our resources to walking with Jesus, shouldering his yoke, 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.

<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.**

DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS

SECOND READING **Matthew 11:25-30** (*The Message*)
 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

REFLECTION Safe Harbor

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We struggle daily with that human tendency to do the wrong thing, say hurtful things, turn our backs on others. But God will never hold our sins against us or our foolish nature. Let us confess to our God, who frees us forever from judgment, as we pray:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Holy One, we have become so good at fooling others that we are convinced we can fool you as well. We have been called to walk with you; yet we run down those paths we pave with foolishness and fears. Forgive us, Steadfast God. Give us the strength to be willing to take up whatever task you give us, and the faith to be willing to lose our lives for others, so we might find life forever with you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (*silent prayer*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news: God hears our prayers, the cries of our hearts. In Christ, we receive new life. We are free to walk in the Light of the Lord. So, this is what we choose: to open our hearts to God's grace and to live as people who choose to live and love as Christ has shown us. 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 "In Christ There is No East or West"

In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love, Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere, Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord, Close binding all mankind.

Join hands then, brothers of the faith, Whate'er your race may be!
Who serves my Father as a son, Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west, In Him meet south and north,
All Christly souls are one in Him, Throughout the whole wide earth.

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 "When the Saints Go Marching In" Spiritual

The steeple will light the sky this week—

With blessings for our nation's Independence Day

SERVING

TODAY – JULY 5

Irene Joyce
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Doug Thorn
Chuck McDougall
Ken Mehalko

Liturgist
Director of Music
Associate Director of Music
Sound
Video
Guest Musician

NEXT SUNDAY – JULY 12

Irene Joyce
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Doug Thorn
Chuck McDougall

Happy Birthday today to Donald Chotkevys and Anna Bickley!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,473.27
Last week's Offering Received \$ 2,158.00
Difference (-\$ 1,315.27)



Thank you very much for your support of our mission and ministry.

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, Lloyd Bridle, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Joe Craig, Robert Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, George Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Lori Kovatich, Karl and Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie Trinckes, Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch
Extended Church Family: Ron, Yvonne, & Ronnie Adams (friends of Judi Pavisich), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Dana Hardy (wife of Craig), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Donna McDonald (friend of the Ritchies), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Linda McNabb (sister-in-law of Ginger Rothel), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Sherry Sheeks (sister of Mark Camp), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)



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