



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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**WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

**Sunday, October 4, 2020 – Online
World Communion Sunday**

OPENING MUSIC

“Lamb of God”

Paris

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

“God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale”

Schalk

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to the Table, so God can teach us how to show goodness and love to each person. We complete God's love by having the same compassion for others God has. Come to the Table, so Jesus can lead us into lives of service and obedience. We complete Jesus' hopes by putting others before ourselves. Come to the Table, so the Spirit can help us to empty ourselves to serve God and our neighbor. We complete the Spirit's peace by giving freely of ourselves to others.

HYMN

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings.
All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.
All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well.
All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

CCLI Song # 2480819 Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander | William Henry Monk
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FIRST READING

Psalm 19:1-4 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

SHARING AND PRAYERS

MUSIC

“Bless the Beasts and Children”

DeVorzon and Botkin

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

OFFERTORY

“In Christ Alone”

Getty and Townend

Together, we again 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.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

Exodus 20 (*New International Version*)

And God spoke all these words:

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt,
out of the land of slavery.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in
heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. For in six days
the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in
them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the
Sabbath day and made it holy.

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the
land the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

REFLECTION

Don't Tell me No!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

It seems as if we are always apologizing for our misdeeds, and then doing the same foolish thing over and over. Or we might think we are never wrong, but then God's grace transforms us-- and we do something completely unexpected. Let us meditate for a few moments in silence, and then pray together the words for forgiveness.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

We try to do what you hope, O God, but we become distracted, and fail. We put ourselves first, and fail to notice those struggling in life. Forgive us, Merciful Lord. May we complete your love by caring deeply for those who make life so difficult for us. May we complete your hope, by reaching out to those in need. May we complete your grace, by emptying ourselves for all around us, just as Christ did for us. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Plant this good news deep in your thoughts: God loves you; God forgives you; God strengthens you for service. May God's compassion make us more passionate to serve; may God's forgiveness make us more merciful; may God's love make us more loving to everyone. **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

"All Creatures of our God and King"

All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along, O praise Him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening find a voice,
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou flowing water pure and clear, Make music for thy Lord to hear.
Alleluia alleluia! Thou fire so masterful and bright,
Thou givest man both warmth and light.
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, Forgiving others, take your part
O sing ye alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care,
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

CCLI Song # 1503 St. Francis of Assisi | William Henry Draper © Words: Public Domain
Music: Public Domain

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

"Go Now in Peace"

Besig

The steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy 80th Birthday to Rev. Oommen Thomas!

With love, Leela

Happy Birthday on October 1st to Betty Dickson!

With love, Greg and Ingrid Dickson

SERVING

TODAY – OCTOBER 4

NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 11

Irene Joyce	Liturgist	Irene Joyce
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Doug Thorn	Sound	Doug Thorn
Chuck McDougall	Video	Chuck McDougall
Sarah Keenen	Special Musicians	Riley Sheppard, Ken Mehalko

Happy Birthday today to Oommen Thomas, Donna Skrant, and Freya Matchett!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 3,473.27
Last Week's Offering Received	\$ 1,494.00
Difference	(-\$ 1,979.27)



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, 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 Mhlack, 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), Donna Fargo (Sally Herzog's mom), 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.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

NIN is another of the special offerings through the United Church of Christ that provides funds to work for justice for all people. Donations accepted for this special offering throughout the month of October.



Additional song credits

Lamb of God CCLI Song # 16787 Twila Paris © 1985 Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Straightway Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale CCLI 11237335 United Methodist Hymnal Words Jaroslav J. Vajda Music Carl F. Schalk 1983 G. I. A. Publications

Bless the Beasts and Children CCLI 11237335 Barry Devorzon and Perry Botkin, Jr. EMI Music Publishing 1971 Screen Gems-EMI Music

In Christ Alone CCLI Song # 3350395 Keith Getty | Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Go Now in Peace Nancy Price and Don Besig. Shawnee Press. Benediction, General Worship. Octavo. 8 pages. Shawnee Press #A6406. Published by Shawnee Press (HL.35008009).

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BLESSING OF THE BEASTS

Today, 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*.



SIGN UP NOW...

Next 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.



Special Thanks to **Sarah Keenen** for sharing her talent with us for today's worship service.

PENNY SATURDAY

On **Saturday, October 31, 2020**, between 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Drive through the church parking lot and donate your pennies, dimes, nickels, quarters, dollars, and checks to UNICEF and receive a pumpkin from the Sunday School (as well as a treat to start filling your Trick or Treat bags)!



**A shout out to everyone
who is trying right now.**

Trying to do the right thing. Trying to stay
open. Trying to keep going. Trying to
hold on. Trying to let go. Trying to find
their flow. Trying to stay afloat. Trying to
meet each new day. Trying to find their
balance. Trying to love themselves.
Trying new things and new ways.

I see you. I'm there too. We're in this together.