



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 (Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

**Sunday, September 6, 2020 – Online
 The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

OPENING MUSIC "In Christ Alone" Townend

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Great is the Lord" Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Some of God's children gather at a distance in sanctuaries made for much larger groups, while others create sacred spaces in their living rooms or back yards. Yet, all join to worship God who is *always* with us, whether scattered or gathered. Some of God's children are cautiously returning to school; others stay at home, learning virtually with parents or grandparents or in pandemic pods. Jesus calls the scattered *and* the gathered, uniting us through perfect Love. Jesus has called us to strive to live into your gifts. Spirit of us all, help us to be faithful to your word.

Amen.

HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees.
 Let us break bread together on our knees.
 When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
 O Lord, have mercy on me (on me).

Let us drink the cup together on our knees.
 Let us drink the cup together on our knees.
 When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
 O Lord, have mercy on me (on me).

Let us praise God together on our knees.
 Let us praise God together on our knees.
 When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
 O Lord, have mercy on me (on me).

CCLI Song # 7128525
 African American Traditional | Brian L. Hanson © 2019 Choristers Guild

FIRST READING **Psalm 149:1-5** (*New Revised Standard Version*)
 Praise the LORD!
 Sing to the LORD a new song,
 his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
 Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
 let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.
 Let them praise his name with dancing,
 making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.
 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
 he adorns the humble with victory.
 Let the faithful exult in glory;
 let them sing for joy on their couches!

SHARING AND PRAYERS

MUSIC "Majesty" Hayford

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US Eddy Bond

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

OFFERTORY "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Bourgeois

It's fall! Leaves are beginning to turn, animals begin their preparations for winter. Life is going on all around us. But the routines of school and life continue to be disrupted. Thanks be to God for the eternal one who is always present and ever faithful. In spirit, we are always gathered in as Family. 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.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 **Romans 13:8-14** (*The Message*)

Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along. The law code—don't sleep with another person's spouse, don't take someone's life, don't take what isn't yours, don't always be wanting what you don't have, and any other "don't" you can think of—finally adds up to this: Love other people as well as you do yourself. You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is *love*, But make sure that you don't get so absorbed

and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

REFLECTION

Love and the Law

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

If God is in every person we meet, what does that say when we speak hurtful words to one another? About the hurt we cause to those whom we love? Come to the Table. Bring your faults and foolishness, your brokenness and bitterness. Bring them before God, so that together, we might be made new. Let's pray together.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

You know us, Watching God. You know who we are: people who find it easier to hold on to all we do that is wrong, rather than cling to your goodness and grace. You know what we do: when we ignore the poor, or refuse to live at peace with others. Indeed, you know us all too well, Steadfast God. Still, you continue to be patient with us and forgiving towards us. Still, you would embrace us when we turn towards you, longing for grace. Still, you would continue to call us to follow Jesus Christ, so we might find our life with you. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news for us, my friends. God remembers us and forgives us, so we might live as people of love and hope. **We will sing our praises to the One who has made us whole. 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

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

God of grace and God of glory On Thy people pour Thy power
Crown Thine ancient church's story Bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom; grant us courage
For the facing of this hour--For the facing of this hour.

Cure Thy children's warring madness Bend our pride to Thy control
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom; grant us courage
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal--Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places; Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces In the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom; grant us courage
That we fail not man nor Thee, That we fail not man nor Thee.

CCLI Song # 7051728 Harry Emerson Fosdick | Keith Christopher © Words: Public Domain
Music: John Hughes

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

"How Beautiful"

Paris

The steeple will light the sky this week—

In celebration of our 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 12th
Pam and Bruce Keenen

SERVING

TODAY – SEPTEMBER 6

NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 13

Dave Williams	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
Dave Williams, Sarah Keenen	Special Musicians	Gary Hackett
Eddy Bond	Guest Children's Message	



Thank you to Dave Williams, and to Eddy Bond, for participating in our worship today. Thank you also to Sarah Keenen, for recording her song for today's service.

Happy Birthday today to Louis Gigliotti!

ROLLING RALLY DAY!



Celebrating our children as they return to school is something we have always looked forward to—but like so many other things, this year **Rally Day** will look a bit different.

On **Sunday, September 13 from 10:00-12:00**, church families are invited to drive through the church parking lot and greet the pastor and the Sunday School teachers. Children will receive a back-to-learning goodie bag. In this topsy turvy year, we want to remind our children how deeply your church family loves you. (**Please note: In order to comply with all state and local mandates and recommendations, this will be a drive-through event only.**)

We are still working on other surprises, so stay tuned!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 3,473.27
Last Week's Offering Received	\$ 1,106.00
Difference	(-\$ 2,367.27)



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

Additional song credits

In Christ Alone

CCLI Song # 3912788 Bart Millard | Pete Kipley © 2002 Songs From The Indigo Room (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Simpleville Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) Curb Wordspring Music (Admin. by W.C.M. Music Corp.)

Great is the Lord

CCLI Song # 1149 Deborah D. Smith | Michael W. Smith © 1982 Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Majesty

CCLI Song # 1527 Jack Hayford © 1981 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

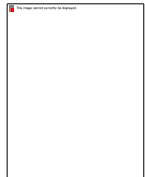
How Beautiful

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

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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, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, 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, 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), Loretta Bacon (Irene Jannsohn's friend), 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.



LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

The Executive Team will be meeting on Labor Day to develop a plan and protocols for returning to in-person worship. The congregation will be kept informed as the plans evolve. In the meantime, please keep watching our online services. Thank you for your continuing support in these challenging times.