



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,
August 6, 2023
10:00 AM

Tenth Sunday
After Pentecost



PRAYER OF CONFESSION *in unison after silently reading it*
God of justice and righteousness, whose compassion for humankind was expressed so vividly in Jesus of Nazareth, we bring to You our sorrow and anguish that we have not followed so faithfully in the footsteps of Christ. Unkindness and deceit are all around us, and we have sometimes joined in their destructive ways. We waste resources You have entrusted to us to share with others. We cause others to stumble and fall, maybe without knowing it. Take away our wickedness, O God, and restore Your covenant among us! May we know Your forgiveness and power to change us again. In Christ's majestic name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Isaiah 43:25*

L: The Lord said "I, I am the One who blots out your transgressions for my own sake; and I will not remember your sins." Our God is a forgiving God whose interest in reconciliation and covenant community with us is much greater than we can imagine. By the person and work of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior, our sins are blotted out and a life of resurrection hope is before us. In laying hold of this spectacular grace given us, will the congregation join me in crying out . . .

A: Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" SSB #35

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

From the Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 32:22-31

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Immortal, Invisible” arr. Hayes

The congregation may be seated

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

Rev. Blair Ann Hull

SERMON

“Face to Face”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN "Where Is Bread?"

Sing to the tune "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

**"Where is bread?" the great crowd murmured —
Thousands strong, yet all in need.
"Where is bread?" your people wondered,
Faced with such a crowd to feed.
Who, Lord Jesus, could have guessed it?
One small boy brought food to share.
Taking what he gave, you blessed it;
All were fed, with much to spare.**

**Where is bread? We know their yearning;
Every day, we wish for more.
God, in time, we're slowly learning:
All we own can make us poor.
Our possessions can possess us,
Leaving hunger deep inside.
Christ our Bread, come now and bless us;
At your feast, we're satisfied.**

**"Where is bread?" the call is rising;
Millions cry who must be fed.
God, your answer seems surprising:
"You, my Church, you give them bread."
Bread to fill each hungry spirit,
Bread for hungry stomachs, too!
Give us bread and help us share it.**

Richly blest, may we serve you. *Text: Copyright © 2000 by
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for*

God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009), which includes a permission note for those who own this book like our Pastor Lanford to use this hymn (along with the 76 other new hymns in the book) in their local church's worship services.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Sursum Corda

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration

The Words of Institution

Participation

CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: 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**

Will those who are able please stand

HYMN “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” SSB #3



1 Let us tal - ents and tongucs em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Refrain
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTIAD, Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

DEACON

Jenn Schneider

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Peter Svenson

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Carolyn Van Til

News in the Pews

Through Isaiah, God calls, “Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters” (Isaiah 55:1, ESV). We come today to the Living Water made known in Jesus Christ. Welcome.

We welcome back this morning the Rev. Blair Ann Hull! A minister in the United Church of Christ, she has pastored congregations in Deerfield, IL; Campbell, CA; and Whitewater, WI among others. She and Pastor Richard have known each other as colleagues in CMA Cluster 1 for many years. Thank you for being with us this morning, Blair!

Thanks to everyone who served in the various ministries of the church this morning ministries of hospitality, administration and worship (including the Communion Elders)!

RUMMAGE SORTING SCHEDULE: Openers and sorting times this week are Beth L. Tuesday from 10 AM to noon, Kathy/Marcia Wednesday from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM and Sharon Friday from 10 AM to noon. You are welcome to come anytime within those hours and stay as long as you are able.

Pastor Richard’s vacation continues through Monday. Tuesday the 8th is a day off so he’s available for emergencies and will check for messages. He’s back in the

study this Wednesday, August 9th, getting ready for next Sunday's worship service which includes the Service of Healing from our United Church of Christ Book of Worship.

Next week after worship, your St. Peter's ad hoc ONA Support Committee is sponsoring a coffee hour and a screening of the trans-related documentary "Learn with Love," created by the Trevor Project. The mission of the Trevor Project is to end suicide by LGBTQ young folk. The August Announcer will have complete details. Please plan to stay; the documentary is not long, and our conversation together afterward, led by Mark Loach, can be enlightening!

At its meeting in July, your Church Council voted to form a Strategic Planning Committee to help guide the congregation in its decision making. This Committee will use the UCC Local Church Profile to structure its work. The new Local Church Profile is designed to be a Discovery Document for congregations, leading them through these questions: Who are we now? Who is our neighbor? Who is God calling us to become? The Committee will review the Local Church Profile form, identify questions of strategic importance within it, and engage with resources that will help the congregation answer those questions. If you are interested in learning more and possibly serving on the Committee, please contact Pastor or Church President Peggy Reins.

Our People

Happy Birthday this week to Erik Altmayer, Richard Steegmueller, Arthur Daniel Svenson, Kathy Zipperer, Marlene Russell, Kim (Loach) Bruhn, and Olivia Altmayer. Happy Anniversary to Gene & Leslie (Todd) Kiesel.

According to the schedule, barring any switches next Sunday's Lector will be Beth Lanford; the Nursery Attendant is to be Mike Ryan.

There will be a private baptism this coming Saturday, Aug. 12th led by Pastor Richard in the sanctuary at 11 AM.

Please remember to lift up Judy Paige in prayers as she recovers from her knee surgery (not replacement) from last week; also, Jenn Schneider's mom Dorene Schurman entered hospice care some weeks ago. JoAnne Zipperer is at home for now. Beth Lanford will have left hip replacement surgery on August 15th.

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

About Communion: We invite all believers, regardless of denominational background, to join in the Lord's Supper. We do ask our St. Peter's young ones to complete a Communicants Class first (6th grade). The servers will bring the elements to you in the pews. Please hold your bread until all are served; we will partake together at the Pastor's prompting as a sign of Christian unity, likewise with the cup. The innermost circle of cups in the wine tray holds grape juice and the outer circle is wine. Please note: we now offer Gluten-free wafers in a separate cup. Please dispose of the plastic single-serve communion cups and lids as they leave the sanctuary. The Elders are no longer counting the empty cups after the service, and trash receptacles are provided by both exit doors. Thank you!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Let us know you were here! Please fill out the black pew pads when you arrive and pass them to the center aisle during the service. Thank you!

Please remember that we can always use food contributions for the Mini-Pantry!

Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts! Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us! Pastor's weekly podcasts include the prior Sunday's scriptures and sermon, and some words and prayer from Pastor just for the listeners of the podcast!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

August 6, 2023

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 14:13-21

Face to Face

When Jesus fed miraculously produced loaves and fishes to the crowds who followed him, here's what he did not do. He did not ask them to show evidence that they were gainfully employed. He did not make them prove that they followed a certain set of guidelines or adhered to a particular set of behaviors. He did not make them sign an oath of allegiance to him. He just...fed them. Every single person who was gathered there that day was fed.

Lost in the wonder of Jesus' production of the loaves and fishes, we can lose sight of how this story can guide us in our own lives. In order for Jesus to feed everyone, he had to believe not only in the abundance providence of God but in the inherent worthiness of each person, without discussion or question. How often we forget these things!

It is perhaps no accident that we hear this story of abundance and worth on Hiroshima Day of Remembrance. As we recall the atomic bomb that was dropped on August 6, 1945, on the city of Hiroshima, we join the citizens of that city and people around the world in pausing for a moment to pray for peace, and for the will to see the abundant worthiness in all of creation as stronger than our weapons of mass destruction.

If you look on the timeline of Iao Congregational UCC in Maui, Hawaii, you will notice that in 1942, months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japanese forces, the church changed its name from Wailuku Japanese Christian Church to Iao Congregational Church. This was no coincidence, but a move designed to protect the church members of Japanese descent. These American citizens, many with generations in the country, were interred in great numbers on suspicion of spying or treason, even though no evidence was ever found against a single Japanese-American Hawaiian during the second world war.

As we pray for peace this day, may we also pray for the willingness to be changed from within, to follow Christ's example of abundance and compassion for all.

Genesis 32:22-31

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this (that John the Baptist had been beheaded), he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour

is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me."

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.