

Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

WORLD GRATITUDE DAY INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



Pastor: Rev. Tara Tetzlaff
Music Director: Terryl Dietert
Guitar | Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba
Video: Richard Tremarello
Liturgist: Doris Mayeshiba

September 21, 2025

Welcome to Christ Church! We are so glad you are here this morning! Whether you are a "first-timer," a regular, or somewhere in between, it is a joy to have you here with us this day. May you be blessed by God's Word in worship today! If you are a **first-time visitor**, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the offering plate, and then make your way to the Chapel (in the back) after worship where we have a small gift for you. **Please stand as you are able*

Prelude

Take My Life and Let It Be - Ryld

Words of Welcome

***Song of Welcome** *What Does the Lord Require*

1 What does the Lord require of you?
What does the Lord require of you?

2 Justice, kindness,
walk humbly with your God.

3 To seek justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God.

Call to Worship

One: Praise the Holy One! From the rising of the sun until its setting,
the name of God deserves our praise!

Many: Who is like our God...seated on high?

One: Praise the Most High, who observes all things and remembers
the poor and those in need.

**Many: God our Righteousness raises the lowly and levels
the exalted.**

One: Praise the Righteous One, who is just and mighty, who repairs
and redeems.

**Many: The Redeemer pours out love and justice, compassion and
conviction, hope and salvation. Praise the Holy One!**

Opening Prayer

**God, our scriptures remind us time and again of your care for the
poor and call us to share that concern. Who are the poor?**

They sleep in doorways; they sleep at home.

They wear ragged clothes and carry shopping bags; they look like us.

**They use poor grammar and smell; they have good educations
and are well-groomed.**

**All-knowing God, show us the poor—not just the ones who have
been pushed aside in the wake of competition, but the ones who
are losing self-confidence,**

**The ones who are victims of the system they helped to build, the
ones whose jobs no longer exist.**

**Show us that there also is a poverty of the heart when saving is
more important than sharing. Help us to find security in sharing
all our resources so that through our total effort we will have
answered your call to be a friend in need. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn**

Lord of All Hopefulness

Hymn #469

Story on the Steps

Thank You, God!

by Kathleen Long Bostrom, illustrated by Elena Kucharik

Gift of Music

We Can Praise You, God!

Terryl Dietert, Solosist ; Rich Tremarello, Percussion

First Reading: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 (CEB)

No healing,
only grief;
my heart is broken.
Listen to the weeping of my people
all across the land:
"Isn't the Lord in Zion?
Is her king no longer there?"
Why then did they anger me with their images,
with pointless foreign gods?
"The harvest is past,
the summer has ended,
yet we aren't saved."
Because my people are crushed,
I am crushed;
darkness and despair overwhelm me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then have my people
not been restored to health?

If only my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
I would weep day and night
for the wounds of my people.

Second Reading: Luke 16:1-13 (CEB)

Jesus also said to the disciples, "A certain rich man heard that his household manager was wasting his estate. He called the manager in and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of your administration because you can no longer serve as my manager.'

"The household manager said to himself, 'What will I do now that my master is firing me as his manager? I'm not strong enough to dig and too proud to beg. I know what I'll do so that, when I am removed from my management position, people will welcome me into their houses.'

One by one, the manager sent for each person who owed his master money. He said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He said, ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your contract, sit down quickly, and write four hundred fifty gallons.’ Then the manager said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ He said, ‘One thousand bushels of wheat.’ He said, ‘Take your contract and write eight hundred.’

The master commended the dishonest manager because he acted cleverly. People who belong to this world are more clever in dealing with their peers than are people who belong to the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves so that when it’s gone, you will be welcomed into the eternal homes.

Whoever is faithful with little is also faithful with much, and the one who is dishonest with little is also dishonest with much. If you haven’t been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? If you haven’t been faithful with someone else’s property, who will give you your own? No household servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Sermon

Rev. Tara

***Hymn of Response**

Here Am I

(music in back of bulletin)

1 Here am I,
where underneath the bridges
of our winter cities
homeless people sleep.

Here am I,
where in decaying houses
little children shiver,
crying at the cold.
Where are you?

2 Here am I,
with people in the lineup
anxious for a handout,
aching for a job.
Here am I,

where pensioners and strikers
sing and march together,
wanting something new.
Where are you?

3 Here am I,
where two or three are gathered,
ready to be altered,
sharing wine and bread.

Here am I,
where those who hear the
preaching
change their way of living,
find the way to life.
Where are you?

Prayers of the People

(see Weekly Newsletter for details)

- For upcoming surgeries: **Jill U**
- For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns, including:
Bonnie & Jeff J, Jerry G, Gloria H, Nicole, Bart, Tom, Dulce, Laurel, Bill , Blair, Joe, Kozy, Stacy, Susie

Pastoral Prayer

The 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Let us bring our gifts as faithful stewards so that lives may be changed, needs may be met, and the kingdom of God realized. Give generously and cheerfully as an act of grateful praise.

Offertory

Make Me a Servant - arr. Donter

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

SCAN TO DONATE



*Prayer of Dedication

Abundant God, may the gifts we give along with your miraculous power be sufficient to the needs of the community and a blessing to the world that you love. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult

Hymn #345

Announcements

*Benediction

*Benediction Song

Find Us Faithful

Hymn #497

Postlude

Let There Be Peace on Earth - arr. Smith

Sources: CCLI License #1905256 | *Worship & Rejoice Hymnal*, Hope Publishing 2001 | *Common English Bible*, 2013 | Opening Prayer from *Sacredise* (<https://sacredise.com/weak-and-poor-god>) | *An Accounting: Service Prayers for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ

Here Am I

1. Here am I, where un - der - neath the brid - ges
 2. Here am I, with peo - ple in the line - up,
 3. Here am I, where two or three are gath - ered,

in our win - ter cit - ies home - less peo - ple sleep. Here am I, where
 anx - ious for a hand - out, ach - ing for a job. Here am I, when
 read - y to be al - tered, shar - ing wine and bread. Here am I, where

in de - cay - ing hous - es lit - tle chil - dren shiv - er,
 pen - sion - ers and strik - ers sing and march to - geth - er,
 those who hear the preach - ing change their way of liv - ing,

cry - ing at the cold. Where are you?
 want - ing some - thing new. Where are you?
 find the way to life. Where are you?

WORDS: Brian Wren (Matt. 25:31-46)

MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon

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NOTES

MISSION MINUTES | Prayerful Living | 1 Timothy 2:1-7 | I recently discovered there’s a monastery just over the mountain from my home in Vermont. Founded in 1960 by a Carthusian monk, the monastery prides itself on being very private. Throughout the years, only once was a newspaper reporter invited inside its holy of holies. Perhaps this guarded solitude is what helps the monks stay true to their motto, “the cross is steady while the world keeps turning.”

While closed to the public, the monastery does have a website. You can imagine my husband’s reaction when he found me reading the “how to join us” page. Lucky for him, I did not have any of the qualifications. That hasn’t stopped me, though, from desiring a cloistered life.

The world just seems so volatile these days. It doesn’t take much for my faith to waver, and many times I feel my cross is unsteady in this turning and churning world. I need more quiet moments amid the chaos. I need a stronger prayer life. What I need the most, however, is to find a way to live a monastic life while still being plugged into the world. Is that even possible?

According to author, Kathleen Norris, it is. Norris wrote at length about the power of capturing “monk moments” as you go about your day. She explains that it isn’t necessary to turn your back on the world to have deep communion with God. Monk moments are those moments of grace, epiphanies, and peace that are happening all the time. We just need to be open to them.

In fact, I am having a monk moment right now as I write this reflection in a crowded airport en route to preach for a friend in Miami. At first glance, this setting is anything but conducive to writing. The air is thick with the stress of many flight delays. The chatter is loud as people call loved ones with new estimated arrival times and gate changes blare over airport speakers.

And yet, this is my holy ground. There is nothing that is stopping me from talking to God. I can pray. Right here, right now. I can pray for the family that just walked right by me. I can pray for the woman sitting across from me worrying about her flight connection. I can pray for the loved ones I hold in my heart as well as the strangers filling the seats here at the airline gate.

After all, being a praying people is what God desires from us. And as the Apostle Paul reminds his young disciple, Timothy, our thanksgivings to God should be made for all people in all places. I don’t need to run away to a monastery to pray. I can—and am—having a monk moment right now. What about you?

All-knowing and ever-listening God, fill our days with beautiful monk moments—moments where amid the noise and chaos of the world, we find peace and solace in your presence. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Monthly Activity	August	YTD
Contributions	\$4,738	\$68,013
Other Income	\$103	\$41,732
Total Income	\$4,841	\$109,745
Expenses	\$13,302	\$131,580
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$118,936

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