



Pastor: Rev. Tara Tetzlaff
Music Director: Terryl Dietert
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Video: Richard Tremarello
Liturgist: Andy Oren

World Communion Sunday

October 5, 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

Here Is Bread, Here Is Wine - arr. Ryld

Words of Welcome

*Song of Welcome

I Am Welcome (2x)

by Bryan Sirchio

I am welcome, I am welcome, I am loved, just as I am.

I am welcome, you are welcome, we are loved, just as we are.

O Spirit burn that truth into our hearts.

Call to Worship

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

Many: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

One: What do we find at today's table?

Many: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

One: What is not at today's table?

Many: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

Many: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.

All: Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

Confession of Sin

Eternal God, whose World is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path, we recognize and confess that we have failed to respond fully to your gracious presence in our lives. Through Jesus Christ you have offered us new life, fulfillment, and the freedom to serve you. We confess that we are captive to sin, that our sin binds us with false pride, and that the wrong we do is made worse by the good we leave undone. God of mercy, forgive all our sin and strengthen us anew for life as you intend it; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Words of Grace

*Opening Hymn

Standing on the Promises

1 Standing on the promises of Christ, my King!
Through eternal ages let His praises ring.
"Glory in the highest!" I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail!
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

3 Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,
bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's Sword,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

4 Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

Standing on the Promises words & music by Russell Kelso Carter © Public Domain | CCLI License 1905256/22315901

Story on the Steps

Benjamin Brody's Backyard Bag

Written by Phyllis Vox Wezeman & Coleen Aalsburg Wiessner

Illustrated by Christopher Raschka

Gift of Music

Break the Bread - Sleeth

Sanctuary Singers

First Reading: Romans 14:13-23 (CEB)

So stop judging each other. Instead, this is what you should decide: never put a stumbling block or obstacle in the way of your brother or sister. I know and I'm convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is wrong to eat in itself. But if someone thinks something is wrong to eat, it becomes wrong for that person. If your brother or sister is upset by your food, you are no longer walking in love. Don't let your food destroy someone for whom Christ died. And don't let something you consider to be good be criticized as wrong. God's kingdom isn't about eating food and drinking but about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever serves Christ this way pleases God and gets human approval.

So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up. Don't destroy what God has done because of food. All food is acceptable, but it's a bad thing if it trips someone else. It's a good thing not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything that trips your brother or sister. Keep the belief that you have to yourself—it's between you and God. People are blessed who don't convict themselves by the things they approve. But those who have doubts are convicted if they go ahead and eat, because they aren't acting on the basis of faith. Everything that isn't based on faith is sin.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 (CEB)

Now I don't praise you as I give the following instruction because when you meet together, it does more harm than good. First of all, when you meet together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and I partly believe it. It's necessary that there are groups among you, to make it clear who is genuine. So when you get together in one place, it isn't to eat the Lord's meal. Each of you goes ahead and eats a private meal. One person goes hungry while another is drunk. Don't you have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you look down on God's churches and humiliate those who have nothing? What can I say to you? Will I praise you? No, I don't praise you in this.

I received a tradition from the Lord, which I also handed on to you: on the night on which he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this to remember me." He did the same thing with the cup, after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Every time you drink it, do this to remember me." Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you broadcast the death of the Lord until he comes.

This is why those who eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord inappropriately will be guilty of the Lord's body and blood. Each individual should test himself or herself, and eat from the bread and drink from the cup in that way. Those who eat and drink without correctly understanding the body are eating and drinking their own judgment. Because of this, many of you are weak and sick, and quite a few have died. But if we had judged ourselves, we wouldn't be judged. However, we are disciplined by the Lord when we are judged so that we won't be judged and condemned along with the whole world. For these reasons, my brothers and sisters, when you get together to eat, wait for each other. If some of you are hungry, they should eat at home so that getting together doesn't lead to judgment. I will give directions about the other things when I come.

Sermon "Whose Supper is it Anyway?" Rev. Tara

***Hymn of Response** *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (see back of bulletin)

Prayers of the People (see Weekly Newsletter for details)

For 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

Rarely have I seen a church without some form of ministry that helps feed people. From community meals to food pantries, churches across the country make sure people have enough to eat. But I always wondered, wouldn't it be better if none of these services had to exist. What if everyone simply had enough to eat?

SCAN TO DONATE



Our churches share compassion by not only providing for the basic needs of our neighbors but also asking deeper questions of why these inequalities exist in the first place. Our immediate call to alleviate the suffering of those around us is paired with a prophetic witness calling for systemic reform.

All congregations in the United Church of Christ are invited to take part in the Neighbors in Need offering to address just this. Two thirds of the offering support justice and witness ministries of the United Church of Christ with one third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Your gifts directly fund the Neighbors in Need grant program. This grant, for UCC congregations and partners, offers funding for both direct service and advocacy projects.

Thank you for your generosity!

The Rev. Rachel McDonald works for the National Ministries of the UCC as Generosity Officer, OCWM and Special Mission Offerings

Offertory

Cry of My Heart - Butler

*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

***Prayer of Dedication** (see Prayer of Compassion on Neighbors in Need insert)

Communion Liturgy for World Communion Sunday**Invitation**

One: Like a sower, God scatters, and God will give growth.

Many: God scatters life across the earth.

One: God scatters people in every land and nation.

Many: God scatters disciples far and wide.

One: Like a shepherd, God gathers.

Many: God gathers people into families of faith.

One: God gathers people into communities of love.

Many: God gathers people into the body of Christ.

Communion Prayer**Sharing the Meal****Prayer of Thanksgiving** (in unison)

We thank you, generous God, for the nourishment of this table and the living presence of Christ among us. We thank you for the gift of growth and grace in this life-renewing feast. We thank you for the company of your great cloud of witnesses, here in this place, in every land, and throughout the generations. Take your gathered people and scatter us again into the world—renewed, invigorated, and committed—that, so nourished, we may take root and bear life-giving fruit to feed, heal, clothe, and comfort, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

I Come With Joy

Hymn #706**Announcements*****Benediction*****Benediction Song** Sent Forth by God's Blessing**Hymn #712****Postlude***Fantasia in A* – Telemannarr, arr. Wold

Sources: *Worship & Rejoice*, Hope Publishing Company, 2001 | *The New Century Hymnal*, Pilgrim Press 1995 | *Common English Bible*, 2013

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war - ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985

Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

MISSION MINUTES | Free to Grieve | Psalm 137 | A seminary professor once told his class of future pastors that there should always be a box of tissues in the pews of the churches they will serve. “If a person can’t cry in the sanctuary, then where?” he asked.

I took this advice to heart. Every church I shepherded I made the case to the frugal finance committee for why we needed to order boxes of tissues for the pews. It was an added cost worth every penny because there was always one person who came through the church doors as a stranger seeking solace who stayed as a sibling who had found healing. And the comment from these solace seekers was always the same: “Pastor, I was grateful for those tissues. I never felt like I could cry like that in church.” To which I replied, “If not here, then where?”

For the exiled Israelites it was by the rivers of Babylon where we are told they hung their harps on the willows and proceeded to lament—sobbing a great and heavy collective sob over all that they had lost. They were captives of Babylon. They had lost not just their physical homes, but their spiritual havens as well. They were stripped of their identities and their freedoms.

There are many today in our world in need of a willow to hang their harp on. They need a safe place to crumble to the ground and sob over all that they have lost, be it an actual place of belonging or a sense of purpose.

Perhaps we, ourselves, are finding the Israelites’ grief hitting too close to home. Losses are piling on top of losses without anytime to properly grieve or adjust to realities that are strange and unwelcomed.

We are living in a time where we all need to give ourselves and others the permission to freely grieve. We need to open wide those floodgates that have been holding back our tears. We need to cry to God in our distress. We need to wail and flail over all the injustices happening to and around us. We are in a place of exile from what we have treasured, and thought would never be taken away from us.

We all need a riverbank where we can sit and grieve. We need a place of refuge where we can let it all out. We need a pew with a box of tissues in it, lovingly placed by a pastor who is ready to shed a tear with us.

Compassionate God who not only hears our cries, but weeps with us, we bring you our tears, asking you to wipe them away and restore to us a sense of renewal and wholeness. 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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If you should need pastoral support, please contact
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