

christ church

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



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

July 13, 2025
Laity Sunday

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 *God of Grace, and God of Glory* - arr. Smith

Words of Welcome

***Song of Welcome** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* **Hymn #481**

***Call to Worship**

One: Beloved people of God, welcome to worship.

Many: We come to worship and to praise.

One: With love for one another, we gather as neighbors.

Many: With love for God, we gather as God's community of love.

***Opening Hymn** *Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

1 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought forth Israel
into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

2 Sprint has dawned on earth today;
Christ hath burst from prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as the sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from His light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

3 Now the joyous seasons, bright
with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection,

4 Neither might the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal
hold you as a mortal;
but today amidst the twelve
You did stand, bestowing
peace and joy which evermore
passes human knowing.

Story Behind the Song

Morning Prayer

Loving God, thank you for being present in our lives and in this time of worship. Speak love to our hearts and wisdom to our minds, that we might grow in your knowledge of love and that our lives might bear the fruit of your knowledge and grace. Amen.

Story behind the Song

Hymn *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* **Hymn #326**

First Reading: Colossians 1:1-14 (CEB)

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Timothy our brother.
To the holy and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae.
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

We always give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you. We've done this since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all God's people. You have this faith and love because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You previously heard about this hope through the true message, the good news, which has come to you. This message has been bearing fruit and growing among you since the day you heard and truly understood God's grace, in the same way that it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world. You learned it from Epaphras, who is the fellow slave we love and Christ's faithful minister for your sake. He informed us of your love in the Spirit.

Because of this, since the day we heard about you, we haven't stopped praying for you and asking for you to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, with all wisdom and spiritual understanding. We're praying this so that you can live lives that are worthy of the Lord and pleasing to him in every way: by producing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God; by being strengthened through his glorious might so that you endure everything and have patience; and by giving thanks with joy to the Father. He made it so you could take part in the inheritance, in light granted to God's holy people. He rescued us from the control of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. He set us free through the Son and forgave our sins.

Prayer of Yearning

Merciful God, help us remember to love and care for our neighbors. When we would rather walk around people in need and avoid situations that trouble us, soften our hearts. Give us the courage to care for our neighbors and to love others as graciously as you love us. In your grace and love, we pray. Amen.

Story Behind the Song

Song of Prayer *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* **Hymn #587**

Words of Assurance:

**In grace, we are strengthened.
In love, our hearts are freed.
In God, grace and love are ours.**

Story Behind the Song

***Hymn** **He Has Made Me Glad** **Hymn #657**

Second Reading: Luke 10:25-37 (CEB)

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to gain eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?”

He responded, “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.*”

Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’ What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?”

Then the legal expert said, “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Story on the Steps

Who is My Neighbor?

by Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and illustrated by Denise Turu

Hymn

Onward Christian Soldiers

Hymn #509

Message

“What Kind of Army is This?”

written by Rev. Tara

Revisiting the Song

Onward Christian Soldiers vs 1, sung to tune *St. Alban*

Invitation to Generosity

May the gifts we bring bear the fruit of God’s love to our neighbors around the world.

Offertory *Sonatina in C Major by M. Clementi* Eva Tremarello

***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**
Gracious God, bless these gifts. May they bring your love, justice, and compassion to where they are most needed in our world. Help us be good neighbors to everyone we meet. With gratitude and love, we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *Leaning On the Everlasting Arms* **Hymn #496**

Story Behind the Song

Announcements

***Benediction**
Bring loving compassion to your homes.
Bring loving compassion to your neighborhoods.
Bring loving compassion to everyone you meet.
Go as God’s blessings to the world.

***Benediction Song** *Let There Be Peace on Earth* **Hymn #614**

Postlude *When We Are Living* - arr. Donter

Sources: CCLI License #1905256 | *Worship & Rejoice Hymnal*, Hope Publishing 2001 | *The New Century Hymnal*, The Pilgrim Press 1995 | *-Sing the Faith*, Geneva Press 2003 | *United Church of Christ Book of Worship* | Research for stories behind the songs from umcdiscipleship.org/resources and hymnary.org | *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025*, edited by Mary Scifres & B.J. Beu, Abingdon Press 2024

MISSION MINUTES | Caring Neighbors | Luke 10:25-37 | “Who is my neighbor?” It’s a question asked of Jesus so long ago, and one that still begs for an answer today.

For Jesus, his reply was to tell the beloved parable we know as “The Good Samaritan,” highlighting for his hearers how the most unlikely person—a Samaritan—who was despised by the Jews, was the very person to care for the nearly beaten to death man found in a ditch alongside the notoriously dangerous Jericho Road.

So often, when we hear Jesus’ words, we all too quickly step into the sandals of the Samaritan. We see ourselves in the role of benevolent savior with a charitable heart and matching wallet to help our unfortunate neighbors. But do we ever dare to switch characters and put ourselves in the ditch, beaten and left to die, praying that someone will see and help us? Not as often as we should.

The question “Who is my neighbor?” is complex for the answer lies in the much-needed realization that sometimes we are the helper and sometimes we are the helpless, but all the time we are travelers on the same precarious road of life and, as such, need to see one another as neighbors in Christ.

There’s a quote from Martin Niemöller, a German Lutheran pastor who went from Nazi sympathizer to outspoken critic of Hitler, that is part of the permanent exhibition at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which opened in 1993.

His quote is a powerful illustration of the fluidity of defining who our neighbor is. He wrote: *First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.*

Catholic priest and author, Henri Nouwen, once said of the parable of The Good Samaritan that “my neighbor is the one who crosses the road for me.” May today we become road crossing neighbors, knowing that one day we, too, will find ourselves in need of another road crossing neighbor who dares to reach their hand out to us.

Loving God, may Your world be filled with caring neighbors who recognize one another as Your precious beloved children. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Monthly Activity	June	YTD
Income	\$14,053	\$87,116
Expenses	\$15,855	\$99,238
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$89,200

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