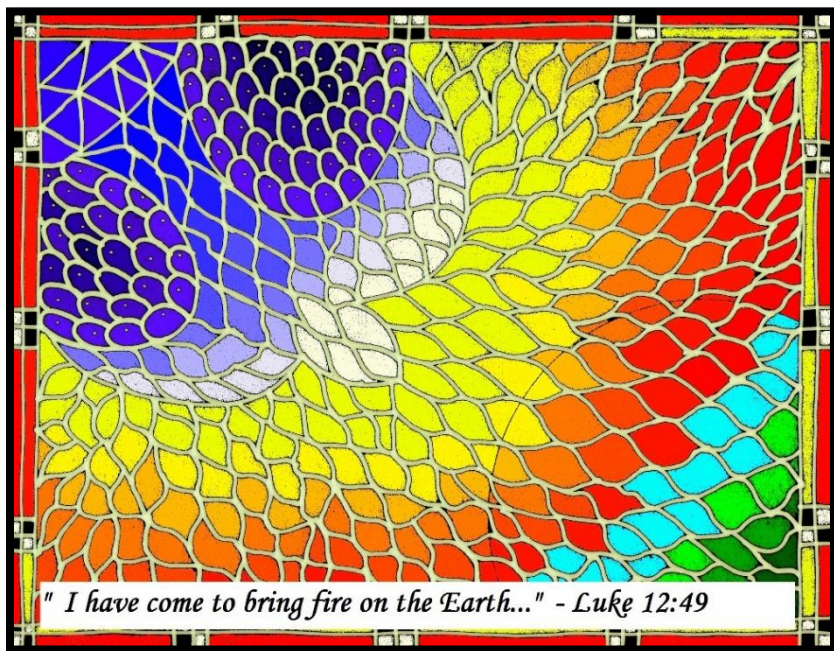


# Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



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

**August 17, 2025**

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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

*How Can I Keep from Singing* - arr. Smith

## Words of Welcome

### \*Song of Welcome

*Love and Justice*

1 Love and justice, peace and power  
Show us how to live each hour  
Raise us up and set us free  
Show us how to live and be

2 Love and justice, peace and power  
Challenge us to give each hour  
Raise us up and set us free  
Help us be all we can be

3 Tell your neighbors, tell your friends  
Here's a place hope never ends  
Love and justice, peace and power  
God is with us in this hour  
God is with us in this hour

### \*Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 50)

ONE: Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see;  
have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.

**MANY: The world is ablaze around us with pain and suffering,  
natural disasters and human schemes, injustice and brokenness.**

ONE: Create again, O God of Fire; respond to the needs of your people  
and shepherd us to be good stewards of your creation.

**MANY: Let your Holy Fire meet the infernos that seek to consume  
us with refining and renewing power.**

ONE: Redeem again, O God of hosts; ignite a flame within your kindom  
that will spread as a wildfire of righteousness and love.

**MANY: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may  
be saved.**

### \*Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**Transforming One, forgive us for dampening your fire, even for  
our failure to recognize your movement among us. Help us to  
follow in the path of life abundantly for our neighbors and  
ourselves. Make us instruments of your kindom as we encourage  
and uplift one another like iron sharpens iron. Surround us as a  
community of accountability and support to transform us in your  
image, character, and nature. We receive the gift of new grace,  
new mercies, and new life that you offer to us each day. Amen.**

## Words of Grace

Beloved, in Jeremiah 23:29, the Voice declares, "Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" We may be assured of God's power to break down in order to build back up. The brokenness we experience in life does not have the final word. For the redemptive love of God makes all things new and the healing grace of God restores and repairs. New life in Christ awaits us all this day and every day.

**\*Opening Hymn**      *God of Grace and God of Glory*      **Hymn #569**

**Story on the Steps**      *The Garden of Forgotten Names: Genesis 2-3*  
from *The Book of Belonging*  
*Words by Mariko Clark, Pictures by Rachel Eleanor*

**Gift of Music**      *Praise the Lord*      Howard, Michael, & Zechariah

### **First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7 (CEB)**

Let me sing for my loved one  
a love song for his vineyard.  
My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.  
He dug it, cleared away its stones,  
planted it with excellent vines,  
built a tower inside it,  
and dug out a wine vat in it.  
He expected it to grow good grapes—  
but it grew rotten grapes.  
So now, you who live in Jerusalem, you people of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard:  
What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I haven't done for it?  
When I expected it to grow good grapes,  
why did it grow rotten grapes?  
Now let me tell you what I'm doing to my vineyard.  
I'm removing its hedge, so it will be destroyed.  
I'm breaking down its walls, so it will be trampled.  
I'll turn it into a ruin;  
it won't be pruned or hoed,  
and thorns and thistles will grow up.  
I will command the clouds not to rain on it.  
The vineyard of the Lord of heavenly forces is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah are the plantings in which God delighted.  
God expected justice, but there was bloodshed;  
righteousness, but there was a cry of distress!

## Second Reading: Luke 12:49-56 (CEB)

"I came to cast fire upon the earth. How I wish that it was already ablaze! I have a baptism I must experience. How I am distressed until it's completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I have come instead to bring division. From now on, a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three. Father will square off against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud forming in the west, you immediately say, 'It's going to rain.' And indeed it does. And when a south wind blows, you say, 'A heat wave is coming.' And it does. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret the present time?"

### Sermon

"WWJD: Cast Fires & Cause Divisions?"

Rev. Tara

**Hymn of Response** *Wounded World that Cries for Healing* (see bulletin)

### Prayers of the People

(see Weekly Newsletter for details)

- For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns, including:  
**Nicole, those with medical issues, Bart, Nichola, Tom, Dulce, Laurel D, Bill D, Blair, Joe, Kozy, Stacy, Karl**

### 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

May the gifts we have be the gifts we use to supply the needs of the community. When we employ generosity, we resist the powers of evil, reject the lie of scarcity, and assert trust in the God who provides. May our gifts reflect the blessings we have received and the faith that we proclaim.

SCAN TO DONATE



### Offertory

*Guide My Feet* - 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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy, Holy, Holy God, who provides, who gifts, and who refines.  
We offer these gifts to you in gratitude and hope. May they  
extend beyond the walls of our sanctuaries so that your name will  
be known through us. May they spark hope and joy to dispel  
despair and despondency. May needs be met and lives changed  
through our giving and our living. Receive these gifts as our  
tangible prayer that your kingdom come and will be done. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**      *O God of Every Nation*      **Hymn #626**  
(sung to the tune of *O Jesus, I Have Promised*)

**Announcements**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Song**      *Whatever is True*      by Andra Moran & Christopher Grundy

Whatever is true  
Whatever is kind  
Whatever is noble  
Keep this in mind  
Know you are held  
God's love keeps you close

No matter what,  
Know you are loved  
Wherever you go

**CHORUS**

Open your heart,  
Open your eyes  
Love for a stranger,  
Love for a neighbor  
Seeking the Christ

**Postlude**      *In Christ There Is No East or West* - arr. Wood

**Sources:** CCLI License #1905256 | *Worship & Rejoice Hymnal*, Hope Publishing 2001 | *The New Century Hymnal*, The Pilgrim Press | *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, 2011 | *Cast Fire: Service Prayers for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost* by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship & Theology for the United Church of Christ

## Love and Justice

$\text{♩} = 96$

1. Love and jus - tice, peace and pow'r, show us  
jus - tice, peace and pow'r, chal-lenge  
neigh - bors; tell your friends, here's a

Am A7 D7sus D Bm  
how to live each hour, raise us up and set us  
us to give each hour, raise us up and set us  
place hope nev - er ends. Love and jus - tice, peace and

Em Am7 A7 D7sus D  
free, show us how to live and be. Love and  
free, help us be all we can be. Tell your  
pow'r! God is with us in this hour!

D7sus G C/G  
hour! God is with us in this hour! God is

Cm/G Cm/D G  
with us in this hour! \_\_\_\_\_

# Wounded World that Cries for Healing 2177



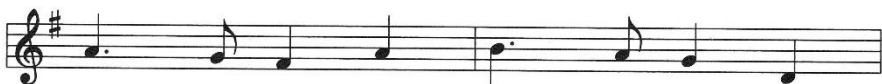
1. Wound - ed world that cries for heal - ing —  
 2. Through our na - tion's spent frus - tra - tion,  
 3. Hon - or those whose lov - ing spir - it



here we hold each oth - er's pain, wound - ed sys - tems,  
 through the cor - ri - dors of stress may there move a  
 nurs - es hope, re - stores and heals, towel and ba - sin



bruised and bleed - ing bear the load, the scars of strain;  
 kind - lier wis - dom all may feel, and all may bless;  
 used in ser - vice like the Christ who comes and kneels;



dol - lars ra - tion out com - pas - sion,  
 tax and tithe are for a pur - pose  
 in the tend - ing, in the mend - ing



hard de - ci - sions rule the day, Je - sus of the  
 shared to shield the poor and weak; past the symp - toms  
 may we see the right and fair, in our com - mon



heal - ing Spir - it, free us to an - oth - er way!  
 of our sick - ness let the voice of jus - tice speak.  
 quest for whole - ness heal each oth - er by our care.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray

MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson

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HEALING SPIRIT

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**MISSION MINUTES | Restore Us | Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19** | There comes a time in life when you wake up one morning and stare into the mirror wondering who that person is staring back at you. Perhaps it is a few more gray hairs or a new wrinkle that makes the reflection unrecognizable. Or maybe it's not your physical appearance, but rather a hollow feeling in your gut reminding you that somewhere on the road of life you took a wrong turn and don't know the way back to who you were or who you wanted to be.

If this was the morning that such reality splashed your face, take heart. You are not alone as each of us, one day or another, stand in the need of God's restoration. Luckily, God is in the business of restoring what is lost—be it our dreams, our hopes or our trust in goodness in the world. We just need to cry out to God, asking for help.

Psalm 80 is such a cry. In this often overlooked plea for restoration and salvation, the psalmist brings to us a soaring and emotional song, complete with the refrain, "Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved."

The setting to the psalm is the aftermath of a crisis where the nation of Israel, described as a vineyard, recognizes that they had a part to play in the destruction of the vines. And in the aftermath of everything that went wrong, Israel remembers once again that the only hope they have is in God. Three times they sing the refrain, "Restore us, God Almighty..."

Yes, there comes a time in our lives when we wake up and don't recognize the person staring back at us. Somewhere along the way something went awry—a wrong decision, a wrong turn, a bad choice or a sorrowful mistake. It is then we sing with faith the refrain sang by the helpless and the hopeless, "Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved." And as we do, know that God hears, God sees, and God is at work, restoring us once again.

May today we commit to memory Psalm 80's refrain, turning to it always in our times of need. *Merciful God, we are sorry for forgetting Your ways are always the best for us. Forgive us for the decisions we have made that have created chaos and confusion in our lives. Restore us now and may Your face shine upon us this day and always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

Monthly Activity	July	YTD
Contributions	\$6,205	\$63,367
Other Income	\$7,705	\$39,547
Total Income	\$13,910	\$102,914
Expenses	\$12,803	\$114,909
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$104,066

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**Pastor Tara** at **413-429-4252** or [revtaratetzlaff@gmail.com](mailto:revtaratetzlaff@gmail.com)  
or the **Church Office** at **414-481-3530** or [office@uccmke.org](mailto:office@uccmke.org)

