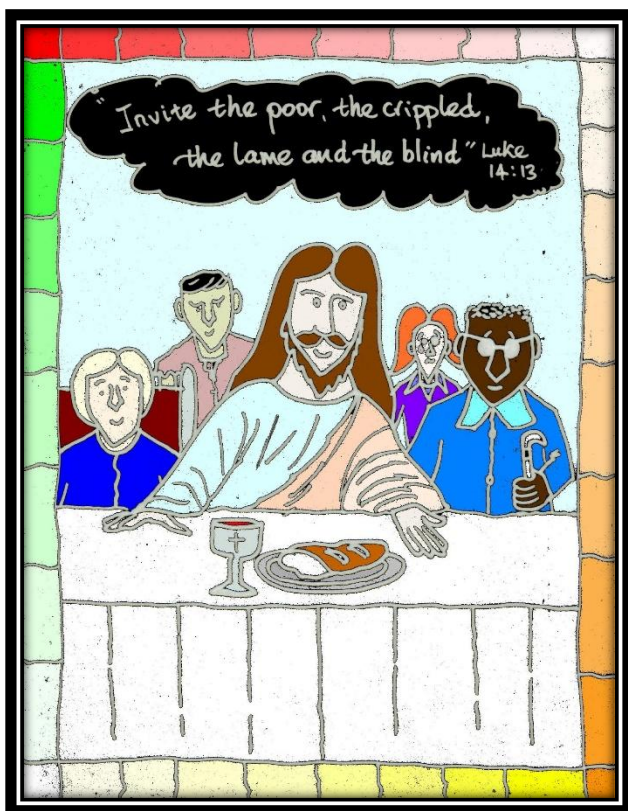


Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



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

August 31, 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

Christ for the World We Sing - arr. Eldon

Words of Welcome

*Song of Welcome

Love and Justice

(sheet music is below)

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

ONE: Today is a Sabbath. **MANY: We are called to rest.**

ONE: This space is for Sabbath. **MANY: We have come here to rest.**

ONE: For all who are lonely...**MANY: May we find belonging.**

ONE: For all who are weary...**MANY: May we find rest.**

ONE: For all who labor...**MANY: May we find renewal.**

ONE: For all who are not afforded belonging, rest, and renewal:

MANY: May we embody solidarity with those longing for community, wages, and sabbaths that everyone deserves.

ONE: Today is a Sabbath.

MANY: Let us find rest, and worship together the One who provides rest from labor, loneliness, and weariness.

Invitation to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

We are workers, God, just like you. But we confess that our actions do not always affirm and honor each other. Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you. We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions. We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits while others may have no job, or one that pays little and provides few benefits.

Creator God, help us to be your people, working for a world where all workers are valued. A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill. And one where those who serve and care for others—in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other places—are, themselves, also served and cared for. A world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us. Amen.

Words of Grace

Our God is a God of grace and transformation. When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.

Blessing of Students, Teachers, and School Supplies

***Opening Hymn**

Lord, Speak to Me

Hymn #593

Story on the Steps

Viva's Voice

by Raquel Donoso and illustrated by Carlos Vélez

Gift of Music

Let It Shine

Soloist, Terryl Dietert

Refrain

Let it shine, let it shine,
the light of the world that shows the way;
let it shine, let it shine,
and show us peace today.

The church bears witness to God's grace,
its mission crystal clear:
to show the world God's human face,
a world that God holds dear.

When love replaces human greed,
a lasting peace will come
as hands reach out to human need
from hearts no longer numb.

Now let us give ourselves to God
within this war-torn world,
and work till justice walks abroad
with flags of peace unfurled.

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First Reading: Psalm 81:1, 10-16 (CEB)

Rejoice out loud to God, our strength!
Shout for joy to Jacob's God!

I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up from Egypt's land.
Open your mouth wide—I will fill it up!
But my people wouldn't listen to my voice.
Israel simply wasn't agreeable toward me.
So I sent them off to follow their willful hearts;
they followed their own advice.
How I wish my people would listen to me!
How I wish Israel would walk in my ways!
Then I would subdue their enemies in a second;
I would turn my hand against their foes.
Those who hate the Lord would grovel before me,
and their doom would last forever!
But I would feed you with the finest wheat.
I would satisfy you with honey from the rock."

Second Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-14 (CEB)

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to share a meal in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees, they were watching him closely.

When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. "When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don't take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have been invited by your host. The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give your seat to this other person.' Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. When your host approaches you, he will say, 'Friend, move up here to a better seat.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up."

Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, "When you host a lunch or dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. And you will be blessed because they can't repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected."

***Hymn of Response**

Worker God Who Built Creation - Amanda Udis-Kessler
(Tune of *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*)

Worker God who built creation, author of humanity,
Thoughtful planner, joyous potter, through your work we come to be.
May we labor in your image. May your love guide all we do.
Help us co-create your kin-dom. Help us make your dream come true.

Worker Jesus, teaching, healing, sharing gifts of wine and bread,
Strengthening the broken-hearted, making sure the poor are fed,
May we labor in your image. May we set the captives free.
Send us ever to the margins. Rouse our solidarity.

Worker Spirit, inspiration, you infuse each living soul,
Calling us to lives of justice till each heart is free and whole.
May we labor in your image. May we tend and heal and praise.
May we strive for life abundant, glad and grateful all our days.

Prayers of the People

(see Weekly Newsletter for details)

- For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns, including:
**Kathleen S, Jerry G, Gloria H, Matt, Nicole, Bart, Tom, Dulce,
Laurel, Bill , 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

The witness of our sacred texts and generations of prophetic leaders is clear: when we have enough—and more than enough—to meet our needs, our call is to share until all others have their needs met. When this vision of thriving humanity is achieved, we all thrive. Let this truth settle upon us as a deeply held desire to love one another as God has loved us.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory

Make Me a Servant - Willard

***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**

God of Justice, Mercy, and Fairness: We commit ourselves and these offerings unto you, that your will and ways may be manifested in our lives, within your assemblies, and spread forth that the powers that be might serve your purposes until all are fed, housed, cared for, work with dignity, and all of these things done in ways that preserve the sanctity of this one precious earth. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Song We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky – Ruth Duck
(Tune of *How Can I Keep from Singing*)

We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing,
For we are part of all that is, within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share, the gifts of God's creation,
That all may have abundant life, in every earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night and, wary, wait for morning,
When children have no bread but tears, & warhorns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labor,
That all may have abundant life, in every earthly nation.

God calls humanity to join, as partners in creating
A future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor,
That all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

Announcements

***Benediction**

***Benediction Song**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Hymn #393

Postlude

Psalm 19 - Marcello

Sources: CCLI License #1905256 | *Worship & Rejoice Hymnal*, Hope Publishing 2001 | *The New Century Hymnal*, The Pilgrim Press | *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, 2011 | *Call to worship* by Rev. Seth Wispelwey, Minister for Economic Justice in the United Church of Christ | *Confession and Assurance* written by Dr. Edie Russell, former Minister for Economic Justice with the United Church of Christ | Posted on the UCC website. http://www.ucc.org/justice_worker-justice_labor-sunday_worship-resources#liturgy

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

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

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

MISSION MINUTES | Open Table | Luke 14:1, 7-14 | I have a friend who pastors a neighboring congregation who was hoping to use a generous gift left by a saint of the church to reconfigure the sanctuary seating. She wanted to remove the ancient wooden pews and buy moveable chairs, thus, opening space to set up banquet tables and invite the hungry in the community to an extravagant sit down dinner.

That didn't happen. The money went instead to repaving the church parking lot. She asked the committee who made this decision if that was the best way to show hospitality to others? The committee thought so. And perhaps it was.

But if we explore the ancient meaning of hospitality, perhaps removable chairs allowing room to feed the hungry was a better choice than a coat of asphalt. The word "hospitality," in the original Greek, is *philoxenos*, which means, "to love the stranger." In Middle Eastern culture it was considered a sacred duty to take responsibility for the stranger—to give them food and shelter. So true hospitality is more than opening church doors or paving a parking lot but opening our hearts to seeing the needs of others.

Jesus didn't see hospitality on display when he went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee. What he saw was guests clamoring for the good seats—the places of honor. And he called them out, telling them to be humble, adding, too, that around the table should be the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

In the book, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, Brennan Manning said that in the Near East, the shared table symbolizes the shared life. "Sadly," Manning writes, "the meaning of meal sharing is largely lost in the Christian community today."

What does hospitality look like in your life? Are the doors to your heart opened to the stranger who is hungry, cold and lonely?

My friend who failed in getting removable chairs in the sanctuary to create a banquet hall for the hungry in her community is now looking for another church to serve. The one she served has a great parking lot, not a pothole to be found, but there are no longer cars parked there on a Sunday. The doors closed for good a few months ago.

God, we hear Jesus' words that the first will be last and the last will be first, yet still we put our desire for recognition, prestige and comfort ahead of Your children who are pushed aside and overlooked. Open the doors to our hearts, so that true hospitality is lived in our communities. 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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or the **Church Office** at **414-481-3530** or office@uccmke.org

