

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Liturgy for the Celebration of Worship

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 27, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Liturgist: Chuck Victor

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

WELCOME

The chimes call us to a time of worship

Greeting Liturgist

Prelude "Arioso" - J.S. Bach

Organ: Mason Meyer

© 1944 Belwin New York, NY

Introit

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Holy One,

Congregation: **who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: As we have gathered here to worship,
let us stand and greet one another in the
love of Christ.

(Please stand.)

* Gathering Song *"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"*

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter. re - ioice. and come in.

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joice, and come in.

*Call to Worship Liturgist

One: Praise the Divine whose splendor is woven into all the earth.

All: What wonders surround us! We linger in awe and appreciation.

One: The beauty of the earth is a balm to the senses.

All: Creation overflows with wisdom, ancient and new.

One: The world, wild with creative energy, is adaptive through challenges and change.

All: Precious is each creature! Every living thing, beloved and valued.

One: In holy defiance of all that spoils life through shame and destruction, we remember and proclaim together the truth from which we come and by which we hope to live:

All: "God saw everything that was created and indeed, it was very good."

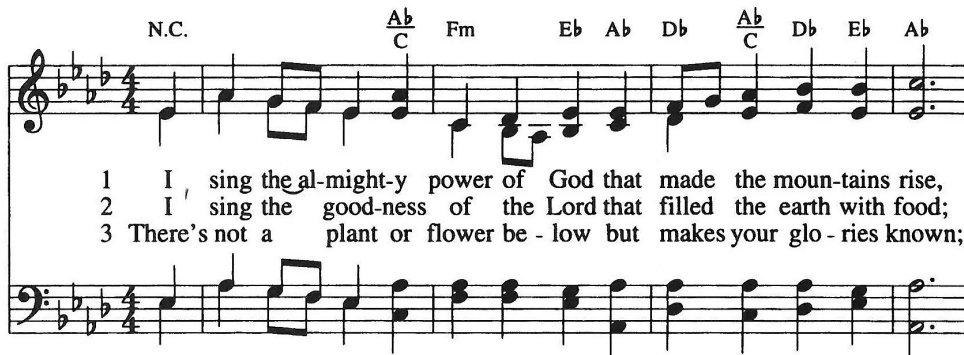
*Opening Hymn

"I Sing the Almighty Power of God" #31

GOD OF CREATION

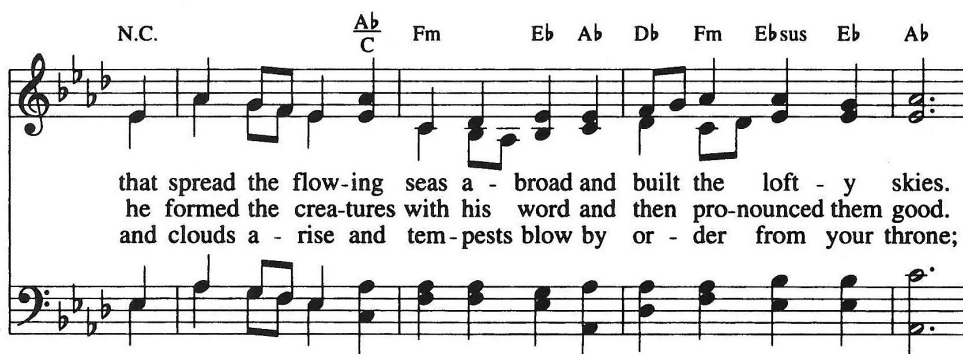
31 I Sing the Almighty Power of God

N.C. $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Fm Eb Ab Db $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Db Eb Ab



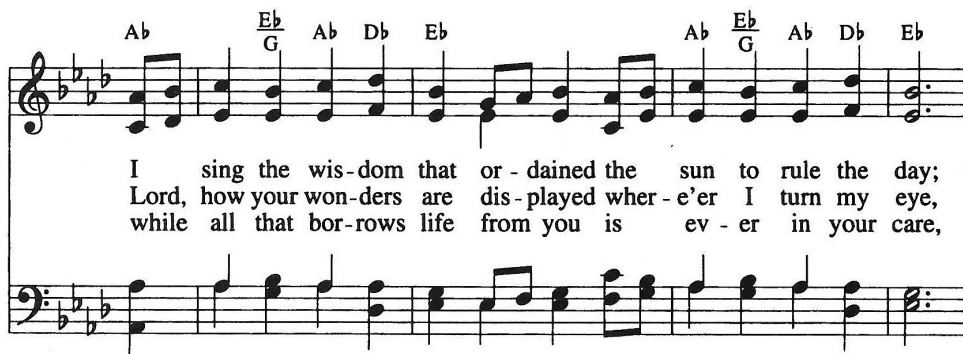
1 I sing the al-might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
 3 There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes your glo-ries known;

N.C. $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Fm Eb Ab Db Fm Ebsus Eb Ab



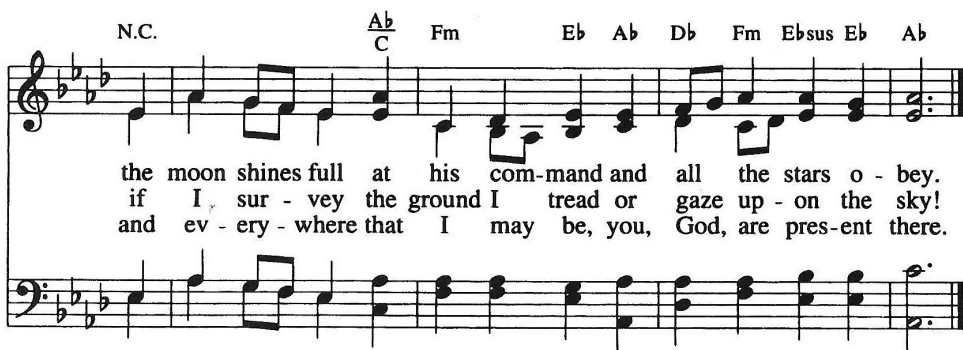
that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y skies.
 he formed the crea-tures with his word and then pro-nounced them good.
 and clouds a-rise and tem-pests blow by or-der from your throne;

Ab $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ Ab Db Eb Ab $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ Ab Db Eb



I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day;
 Lord, how your won-ders are dis-played wher-e'er I turn my eye,
 while all that bor-rows life from you is ev-er in your care,

N.C. $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Fm Eb Ab Db Fm Ebsus Eb Ab



the moon shines full at his com-mand and all the stars o-bey.
 if I sur-vey the ground I tread or gaze up-on the sky!
 and ev-ery-where that I may be, you, God, are pres-ent there.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
 MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. K. Hofkapelle*, 1784

ELLACOMBE
 C.M.D.

***Opening Prayer**

Liturgist

Spirit of Life, you created us in your image. You made us to be healers, to be protectors, and to be in deep and abiding relationship with one another and all the earth. Help us to trust in the power of these Sacred gifts within us. Enable our resistance to all that threatens life and make us co-creators of justice, joy, and care. Amen.

Special Music

"Thy Word" - Smith/arr. Corey Cammel

Piano Solo: Corey Cammel

Music: Michael W. Smith (1957-)

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children's Message

- Wendy Brown

WE LIFT OUR PRAISE & PRAYER TO GOD

Naming our Prayers before God

Moments of Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer w/ Lord's Prayer

HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR THE DAY

Scripture Lessons

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1:26-31—*"The Message"*

²⁶God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature"

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,
the birds in the air, the cattle,
And, yes, Earth itself,
and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.”
²⁷God created human beings;
created them godlike,
Reflecting God’s nature.
God created them male and female.
²⁸God blessed them:
“Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!
Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”
²⁹Then God said, “I’ve given you
every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth
And every kind of fruit-bearing tree,
given them to you for food.
³⁰To all animals and all birds,
everything that moves and breathes,
I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.”
And there it was.
³¹God looked over everything that was made;
it was so good, so very good!
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Six.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

***Hymn of Preparation**

“For Beauty of Meadows” #28

(words and music on the following page)

For Beauty of Meadows

28

G C Am D Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

1 For beau - ty of mead - ows, for gran - deur of trees,
 2 As stew - ards of beau - ty re - ceived at your hand,
 3 Teach us once a - gain to be gar - deners in peace;

G C Am D Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

for flow - ers of wood - lands, for crea - tures of seas,
 as crea - tures who hear your most ur - gent com - mand,
 all na - ture a - round us is ours but on lease;

G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{G}{B}$ G Em $\frac{G}{B}$ D

for all you cre - at - ed and gave us to share,
 we turn from our waste - ful de - struc - tion of life,
 your name we would hal - low in all that we do,

G C Am D Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

we praise you, Cre - a - tor, ex - tol - ling your care.
 con - fess - ing our fail - ures, con - fess - ing our strife.
 ful - fill - ing our call - ing, cre - at - ing with you.

WORDS: Walter H. Farquharson (1936-)

MUSIC: Welsh melody

Words © 1971 Walter Farquharson

ST. DENIO

11.11.11.11.

Sermon

"There and Back Again: Spiritual Gleanings
from J.R.R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings':

The Nature of Humanity

- Rev. Daniel Doty

THE OFFERING

Invitation to the Offering

GIVE ONLINE HERE



Offertory

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" - Sy Miller

Organ: Mason Meyer

© 1955 by Jan Lee Music

(Please stand.)

***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. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Loving Creator, you mourn with us over all that is being destroyed. Each life is precious in your sight. Each creature and creation, a Sacred testament to you. As we offer our thanks for what sustains us, we bring, too, our grief, our tears, and our distress. As a practice of love, we pray, we weep, and we labor for change. Amen.

WE ARE SENT BY GOD TO BE THE GOOD NEWS

***Closing Hymn** "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace" #32

(words and music on the following page)

***Benediction**

***Congregation Response**

**"Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love."**

Go Now in Peace—Besig, © Harold Flammer Music, A division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

Postlude "Plein jeu. Premier Couplet du Gloria"

- Francois Couperin

Organ: Mason Meyer

c. Alfred Publishing Company. Van Nuys, Ca.

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace 32

N.C. G $\frac{B7}{F\#}$ Em Am D $D\frac{1}{2}$ D G $\frac{G}{B}$

1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the
 2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's
 3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all
 4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one

C $\frac{F\#dim}{A}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D A7 D N.C. G B E Am7

bold de - signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and
 mys - teries known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile
 now de - spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing
 fam - ily with a bil - lion names; let ev - ery life be

D $D\frac{1}{2}$ D G $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{F\#dim}{A}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ C+ $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

stars and light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
 blend with air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
 like a dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.
 touched by grace un - til we praise you face to face.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

Tech Team: Anne Pertick, Diana Fiocca, Megan Farnsworth
Liturgist: Chuck Victor
Ushers: Don Simmons, Joe Labay, Tom Labay, Larry Robinson
Greeters: Dianne and Don Drummond
Special Music: Corey Cammel

* A special thank you to Mason Meyer for playing the organ today.

Today's altar flowers are provided by: Jim and Carol Dowey

"In Memory of Loved Ones"



Summer 2025 Sermon Series

"There and Back Again: Spiritual Gleanings from J.R.R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings'"

The fantastical world created by JRR Tolkien begins with the phrase, "In a hole in the ground there lived a Hobbit." The Hobbit, Bilbo, was hesitant to be a part of the grand adventure at first. He didn't want to leave his comforts behind to explore Trolls' lairs or dine with elven lords. We can also be like that. We can respond with an "I can't" do it. Much like Moses trying to convince God that he can't lead the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 4:10-31), we like to see what is before us and treat the outcome of completing the task like an equation. "What I believe I can do" subtract "What I believe it will take to do it" equals "Outcome."

This summer, we will explore these questions through the lens of Tolkien's works. We, like Bilbo, only need to take up the challenge and say with great fervor, "we're going on an adventure!"



YOU'RE INVITED!

FIRST SERVE ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Join over 500 volunteers to work on transformational projects in the North Hill community of Akron.

DETAILS

- 8:30-9am Interfaith Send-Off Service
- 915 N. Main St. Akron
- 9:30am-3pm Volunteer at Project Sites
- Lunch Provided

PROJECTS FOR ALL AGES & ABILITIES

- Painting sidewalk murals
- Washing pre-school toys
- Making teacher appreciation goodie bags
- Garden clean-up
- Preparing frozen meals
- Organizing closets
- Repairing residential decks
- Weaving sleeping mats
- Patio project
- More!

*Choose from half or full-day projects

Register at joinfirstserve.org beginning on August 1st

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THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

We pray for the names listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723. *Bless be God who did not refuse me the kindness I sought in prayer. Psalm 66:20*

Brad, Noreen, and Tim Ashley

Sharon Bible

Margarete Boschert

Jim Brown (Sandy Pressler's son-in-law)

Steve Burr

Patti Calvarese

Jim Caplinger

Lyn Fendenheim (friend of Joe Labay)

Debbie Fickes

Eleanor Hall

Angela Hammelman (daughter of Wally and Donna Atwood)

Alleen Hilbish

Jim Jackson (Bonnie Fordham's son-in-law)

John James

Suzi Klush

George Kunzin (friend of Sandy Haydu)

Zell Lambert

Roberta Lewis

Ron Mitchell

Linda Moreland (Mike Cammel's cousin)

Lynn Norton

Bob Poff

David and Jackie Parker

LTJG John Norton (Connie Stone's grandson)

Bonnie and Matthew Rains

Heather Read (Ronda's daughter)

Roger Riddle (friend of Wally Atwood)

Darlene Ries (Donna Atwood's twin sister)

Sara Rooks

Alice Sheeler

Eddie Showalter (Linda Kester's cousin)

Lt. Maxwell Spear (Connie Stone's grandson)

Jeff Sullivan

John Triola (friend of Joe Labay)

Richard Thomason

Anne Varian (friend of Barb Dolensky)

Kim and Noel Walters

Ensign 2 Kaitlyn Wetter (Kester's granddaughter)

Don Woerz

Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group

August 10 @ 10 AM

Blessing OF THE Backpacks

We invite all children, youth, college students, and teachers to join us in worship. We will give you a blessing to start the year off right! Bring your backpack or bag with you.



Rev. Daniel J. Doty, *Senior Minister*
Nancy Lynn Robinson, *Choir Director/Organist*
Wendy Brown, *Director of Family Ministries*

IN PERSON | PARKING LOT | ONLINE WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—12:00 pm
Fridays—CLOSED

85 HERITAGE DR | TALLMADGE, OH 44278