

THE ANSWER TO
JUDGMENT
IS
LOVE

First Congregational Church of
Tallmadge
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Liturgy for the Celebration
of Worship**

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 16, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Liturgist: Amelia Ross

"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

"O God Beyond All Praising"- arr. Page

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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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.

* indicates: **please stand as you are able**

*** Gathering Song** *"This Is the Day"* #652

*This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made.*

***Call to Worship** Liturgist

One: Come, all who long for mercy more than judgment, and love stronger than fear.

All: We come to meet the God whose love restores dignity and offers new beginnings.

One: Jesus calls us to the greatest commandment: to love God with all we are and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

All: We choose the way of compassion, justice, and grace over condemnation and exclusion.

One: Let us worship the One who answers every judgment with transforming love and sends us to do the same.

All: With open hearts and willing hands, we will love boldly, welcome freely, and seek justice for all.

***Opening Hymn**

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" vs. 1-3 #132
(words and music on the following page)

132 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Bb F7 A Bb Eb Bb D Cm7 F7 Bb
 1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart,
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Did you not bid us love you, God and King,
 4 Teach me to feel that you are al - ways nigh;
 5 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

Gm A A7 C# Dm G7 D F C Gm C7 F
 free it from sin, through all its puls - es move.
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 love you with all our heart and strength and mind?
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

F F7 Eb F F7 Eb F7 Eb F7
 Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as you are,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies,
 I see your cross—there teach my heart to cling.
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

Bb F7 C Bb D Eb (4/2) Eb Bb F Eb G Bb F F7 Bb
 and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek you and O let me find!
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

WORDS: George Croly (1780-1860), alt.
 MUSIC: Frederick C. Atkinson (1841-1897)

MORECAMBE
 10.10.10.10.

***Opening Prayer**

Liturgist

Loving God, you meet us with mercy when the world is quick to condemn, and you call us to love you and our neighbors with our whole lives. Free us from hearts that judge and hands that exclude, and fill us instead with your compassion, justice, and grace. May our worship today shape us into people who answer hatred with love and embody Christ's welcome for all. Amen.

Special Music

"Above All" — LeBlanc and Baloché

Solo: Ken Dodge

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A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children's Message/Backpack Blessing

Wendy Brown

Special Music

"Swallowtail Jig" — Unknown

Hammered Dulcimer Solo: David Taylor

© unknown, Source in England: "O'Neill's Dancing Master"

WE LIFT OUR PRAISE & PRAYER TO GOD

Naming our Prayers before God

Moments of Silent Prayer

Intercessory Prayer w/ Lords Prayer (using debts/debtors)

HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR THE DAY

Scripture Lesson

First Gospel Lesson: John 8:3-11

³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, ⁴ they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵ Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶ They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹ She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

*Hymn of Preparation

"Stand Up and Bless the Lord" #11

Stand Up and Bless the Lord 11

(N.C.) $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ C F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ F Gm F C

1 Stand up and bless the Lord, you peo - ple of his choice;
2 O for the liv - ing flame, from God's own al - tar brought,
3 God is our strength and song, and his sal - va - tion ours;
4 Stand up and bless the Lord, the Lord your God a - dore;

$\frac{C}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{A}$ C $\frac{C}{E}$ F Dm C $\frac{F}{A}$ Bb $\frac{F}{A}$ Bb $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

stand up and bless the Lord your God with heart and soul and voice.
to touch our lips, our minds in - spire, and wing to heaven our thought.
then be his love in Christ pro - claimed with all our ran - somed powers.
stand up and bless his glo - rious name, both now and ev - er - more.

WORDS: James Montgomery (1771-1854)
MUSIC: Aaron Williams' *New Universal Psalmist*, 1770

ST. THOMAS
S.M.

Second Gospel Lesson: Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³ and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

Sermon

“The Answer to Judgment is Love”
- Rev. Daniel J. Doty

THE OFFERING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

GIVE ONLINE HERE



"Give Me Jesus" - arr. Hamlin

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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*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

Generous God, as we offer these gifts, may they become instruments of your mercy, justice, and love. Teach us to release judgment, embrace compassion, and build communities where every person is welcomed, valued, and cherished as your beloved child. Amen.

WE ARE SENT BY GOD TO BE THE GOOD NEWS

*Closing Hymn

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" vs. 4-5 #132

(words and music on page 3)

***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

"The God of Abraham Praise" - arr. Young & Lyon

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

Tech Team:	Megan Farnsworth
Liturgist:	Amelia Ross
Ushers:	Dave Marconi, Jane Charles, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Greeter:	Dan Thomas
Special Music:	Ken Dodge and Dave Taylor

Today's altar flowers are provided by Jeff and Edith Sullivan

"In Celebration of our 47th Anniversary"

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*

Brian Allman

Cindie Anderson

Debbie B.

The Becking Family

Joyce Bojarski

Margarete Boschert

Ryan Boylan

Jim Caplinger

Matthew Chapman

Jane Charles

Patty Conely

Jeffry Cotton

Betty Cottrill

Bob Davis

Rylin Davis and family

Susan Dean

Sean and Sara Doty

Ron Drake

Elaine Engle

Ron Evans

Bonnie Fordham

Darrell Goodson

Eleanor Hall

Jim Jackson

Nancy Johnson

Anita Kelly-Lahrmer

The Klinginsmith Family

Yvonne Larson

Bill Laymon

Roberta Lewis

Kitty Maddox

Jack and Helen McKee

Donna Phillips

Bob Poff

Lt. John Norton

Ensign 5 Kaylie Spear

Lt. Maxwell Spear

Richard and Karen Thomason

Troy and Kara

Kim and Noel Walters

PO3 Kaitlyn Wetter

Don Woerz

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Ladies,

YOU'RE INVITED TO A

KITCHEN SHOWER!

Let's bless our church kitchen together!



**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3RD**
at noon



Enjoy a
POTLUCK LUNCH
and fellowship!



Play games and
WIN PRIZES!



Pick a slip from our
**KITCHEN BLESSINGS
BASKET**
to see your
shower gift item!



*Come join the fun, SHARE IN THE FELLOWSHIP,
AND HELP FILL OUR KITCHEN WITH BLESSINGS!*



GOODBYE SUMMER PARTY

Sunday, August 16

5:00 pm

PICNIC SUNDAY

August 30

10:00 AM

@ Lion's Park

5:00– 6:30 Families with children younger than 6th grade are welcome to join our family games and dinner. Come ready to be silly and enjoy a few hours together before school starts.

6:30-7:30 Combined dinner for families with children younger than 6th grade and teens in United Ministries

7:30-10:00 United Ministries (grades 6-12) will gather for an outdoor movie.

On Sunday, August 30 (a 5th Sunday), we will have a worship service and a potluck picnic at the Cherry Tree Pavilion in Lions Park in Tallmadge. The service will start at 10:00 am as usual. The church will provide a hot dog bar and beverages. Please bring a salad/side/dessert for the picnic and your own table service. Games for all ages are planned! See you there!

KITCHEN SHOWER

September 3

12:00 PM

@ FCC Atrium

Ladies, You're Invited to a Kitchen Shower! Help us bless and stock our church kitchen with much-needed supplies. Visit the signup table in the atrium before or after church on **August 16, 23, or 30** to learn more and reserve your spot. Be sure to choose a slip from our **Kitchen Blessings Basket**, which will suggest a special item to bring as your shower gift for the church kitchen. Enjoy a delicious **potluck lunch**, fun **shower games**, fellowship, and opportunities to win **prizes** as we work together to support this important ministry. Come join the fun, share in the fellowship, and help fill our kitchen with blessings!



The graphic is a vibrant blue poster for a 'Goodbye Summer Party' on August 16. The title 'Goodbye SUMMER PARTY' is written in large, stylized white and yellow letters, with a sun icon above 'Goodbye'. Below the title, 'AUGUST 16' is written in white on a pink banner. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a beach ball, a slice of pizza, a red cup, and a blue Adirondack chair. On the right side, there are three colored boxes (yellow, green, and blue) each containing an icon and text for different times: 5:00-6:30 (family games and dinner), 6:30-7:30 (combined dinner), and 7:30-10:00 (outdoor movie).

5:00 – 6:30
Families with children younger than 6th grade are welcome to join our family games and dinner.

6:30 – 7:30
Combined dinner for families with children younger than 6th grade and teens in United Ministries.

7:30 – 10:00
United Ministries (grades 6–12) will gather for an outdoor movie.

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

IN PERSON | ONLINE WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

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