

THE ANSWER TO

BAD RELIGION

IS NOT

NO RELIGION

BUT **GOOD RELIGION**

First Congregational Church of
Tallmadge
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Liturgy for the Celebration of Worship

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 2, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Liturgist: Rev. John Phillips

"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

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" - arr. Mark Sedio

Organ: Janice Kobb

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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: Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, bringing healing, hope, and justice wherever darkness persists.

All: We come to worship the God whose love transforms religion into compassionate action.

One: Christ reminds us that the Sabbath was made for humanity, and mercy is always greater than legalism.

All: We choose a faith that restores life, welcomes the stranger, and serves our neighbors with joy.

One: Come, let us follow the One whose good religion shines with justice, compassion, and abundant love.

All: We will let our light shine, so that all may glimpse God's Beloved Community and give glory to God.

*Opening Hymn

"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People" vs 1-2

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

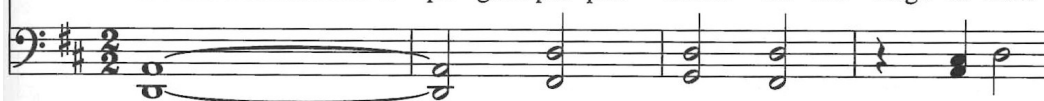
Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Unison

D (allow to ring off)



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!



Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!



Refrain



Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain
Marty Haugen, 1986

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***Opening Prayer**

Liturgist

Loving God, you call us to be salt that preserves goodness and light that shines with compassion. Free us from every form of religion that burdens, excludes, or condemns, and lead us into the faith of Jesus that heals, welcomes, and restores. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that our worship may inspire lives of justice, mercy, and courageous love, bringing hope to our neighbors and glory to your name. Amen.

Special Music

“How Great Thou Art” — Traditional Swedish Folk Tune

Piano Solo: Hope Mitchell

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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

Intercessory Prayer

... Holy God,

All: make our religious actions healing, liberating, and true.

HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR THE DAY

Scripture Lesson

First Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

*Hymn of Preparation

"As a Fire Is Meant for Burning" #551

(words and music on the following page)

Second Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:1-11

¹ One sabbath while Jesus was going through the cornfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. ² But some of the Pharisees said, 'Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' ³ Jesus answered, 'Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?' ⁵ Then he said to them, 'The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.'

⁶ On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. ⁷ The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. ⁸ Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand,

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning 551

Unison F B $\flat$ B $\flat$ /C Gm7/C F

1 As a fire is meant for burn - ing with a bright and warm-ing flame,
 2 We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; we are pil-grims on the way.
 3 As a green bud in the spring-time is a sign of life re-newed,

F B $\flat$ B $\flat$ /C Gm7/C F

so the church is meant for mis - sion, giv - ing glo - ry to God's name.
 We are seek - ers; we are giv - ers; we are ves - sels made of clay.
 so may we be signs of one - ness 'mid earth's peo - ples, man - y - hued.

Am7 Dm Am7 Dm Am/C B $\flat$ 2 B $\flat$

Not to preach our creeds or cus - toms, but to build a bridge of care,
 By our gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, we would show that Christ is light.
 As a rain - bow lights the heav - ens when a storm is past and gone,

C7/G F Fmaj7 B $\flat$ B $\flat$ /C Gm7/C F

we join hands a - cross the na - tions, find - ing neigh-bors ev - ery - where.
 In a hum - ble, lis - tening spir - it, we would live to God's de - light.
 may our lives re - flect the ra - diance of God's new and glo - rious dawn.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (1947-)

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.D.

Words © 1992 GIA Publications
Music Arr. © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

‘Come and stand here.’ He got up and stood there. ⁹Then Jesus said to them, ‘I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?’ ¹⁰After looking around at all of them, he said to him, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

Sermon

“The Answer to Bad Religion Is Not No Religion, But Good Religion”
- Rev. Daniel J. Doty

THE OFFERING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“*Here I Am, Lord*” - Daniel Schutte/arr. Jack Schrader

Organ: Janice Kobb

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GIVE ONLINE HERE



*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**

Gracious God, receive these gifts as signs of our desire to practice the faith of Jesus—a faith that heals, welcomes, and restores. May our generosity become salt for a hurting world and light for those seeking hope, as we build communities of justice, compassion, and abundant life. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION W/ LORD'S PRAYER
(using debts/debtors)**

SHARING IN THE BREAD AND THE CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

O God, we thank you for uniting us by baptism in the body of Christ and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth; our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world; our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in your service. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE ARE SENT BY GOD TO BE THE GOOD NEWS

*Closing Hymn

"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People" vs 3-4
(words and music 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

"Hymn to Joy" - arr. Albert Travis
Organ: Janice Kobb
c. Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP)

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

Tech Team:	Diana Fiocca
Liturgist:	Rev. John Phillips
Ushers:	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell
Greeters:	Carol Kroah and Janet McCaulley
Special Music:	Hope Mitchell
* a special thanks to our guest organist, Janice Kobb	

Today's altar flowers are provided by Don and Judy Woerz:

"In Celebration of our 41st 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

Katie Ann Bickett

Joyce Bojarski

Margarete Boschert

Patti Calvarese

Sue Canavan

Jim Caplinger

Matthew Chapman

Jane Charles

Patty Conely

Jeffry Cotton

Betty Cottrill

Bob Davis

Rylin Davis and family

Sean and Sara Doty

Ron Drake

Elaine Engle

Ron Evans

Bonnie Fordham

Darrell Goodson

Eleanor Hall

Sue Hamilton

Jim Jackson

Gene Jarjabka

Nancy Johnson

Anita Kelly-Lahrmer

The Klinginsmith Family

Yvonne Larson

Bill Laymon

Roberta Lewis

Kitty Maddox

Jack and Helen McKee

Arlene Luna Pena

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



PICNIC SUNDAY

Join us at Cherry Tree Pavilion in Lions Park, at the end of E. Garwood Drive in Tallmadge. The service will start at 10:00 am as usual. We will have a picnic afterwards. 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!

BACKPACK BLESSING—AUGUST 16TH

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 | ONLINE WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

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