

THE ANSWER TO

**DIVISION**

IS

**COMMUNITY**

First Congregational Church of  
Tallmadge  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Liturgy for the Celebration  
of Worship**

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 6, 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

*"Trumpet Tune in G" - William P. Rowan*

Organ: Janice Kobb

© 1985 Hope Publishing Co.

## 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**      *"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"*

### Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

*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 - joice, and come in.

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

The musical score is written for a unison voice part in 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the first two lines of the song, and the second staff contains the next two lines. The lyrics are written below the notes. The chords are indicated above the staff: C, FM7, C, C7, FM7, Dm7, G7, and C.

## \* **Call to Worship**      Liturgist

One: In Christ, the walls that divide us lose their power.

**All: We are one community, clothed in love and belonging.**

One: Let us put away falsehood, bitterness, anger, and contempt.

**All: We will speak truth, practice kindness, and forgive one another.**

One: Come, beloved community, where every identity is honored and every neighbor welcomed.

**All: Together, we worship the God who makes us one.**

# \*Opening Hymn

"Community of Christ"

#615

JUSTICE & PEACE

615

Community of Christ

N.C.  $\frac{Em}{G}$  B Em  $\frac{Am}{C}$  B Em  $\frac{Am}{C}$   $\frac{G}{B}$  Am7 D G

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the cross your own,  
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church - 's door  
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—  
 4 When men - ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,

D  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{F\#dim}{A}$  G C  $\frac{G}{B}$  D7 Em Am7  $\frac{G}{D}$  D G

live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:  
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.  
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world round:  
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;

G  $\frac{G}{B}$  C#m7(b5) D  $\frac{G}{B}$  C G Am7 Bsus B

the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,  
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,  
 dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,  
 our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

B  $\frac{Em}{G}$  B Em D G  $\frac{Am7}{C}$  Am  $\frac{Em}{G}$   $\frac{Em}{B}$  B Em

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.  
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.  
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.  
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931- )  
 MUSIC: Hebrew melody; arr. Meyer Lyon (1751-1797)  
 Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

LEONI  
 6.6.8.4.D.

# **\*Opening Prayer**

Liturgist

**God of boundless love, you call us beyond every wall that divides and into the beloved community of Christ. Free us from bitterness, anger, prejudice, and fear. Teach us to speak truth with compassion, practice forgiveness with courage, and recognize your image in every neighbor. Make us one in hope, one in love, and one in our shared humanity. Amen.**

## **Special Music**

**“Hymn Medley” — Mason/Dockery**

**Duet: Joey and Lucas Dodge**

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# **WE LIFT OUR PRAISE & PRAYER TO GOD**

**Naming our Prayers before God**

**Moments of Silent Prayer**

**Intercessory Prayer**

# HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR THE DAY

## Scripture Lesson

First Lesson: Galatians 3:25-29

<sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup> As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring,<sup>[a]</sup> heirs according to the promise.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

## \*Hymn of Preparation

*"O for a World" vs 1-2*

(words and music on the following page)

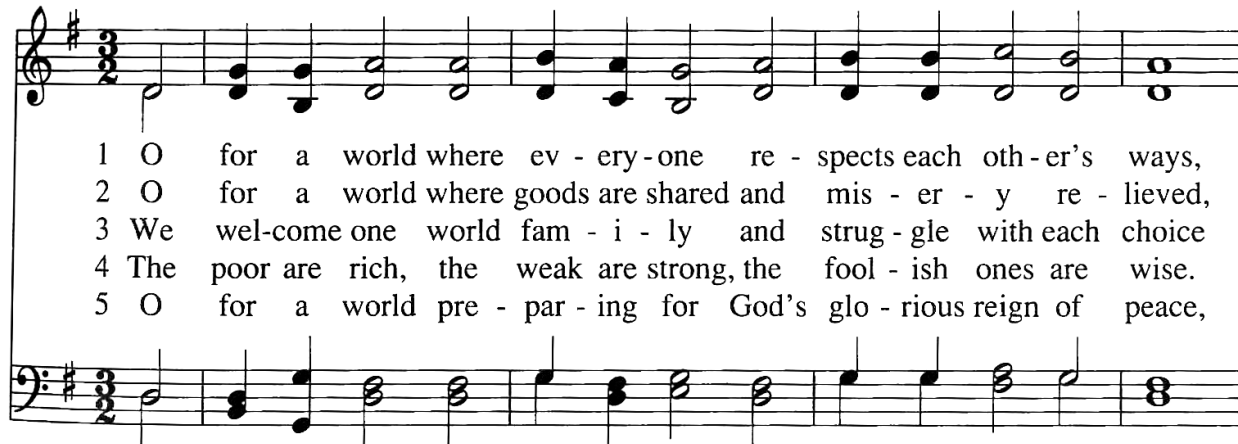
Second Lesson: Ephesians 4:25-32

<sup>25</sup> So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup> Those who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup> Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

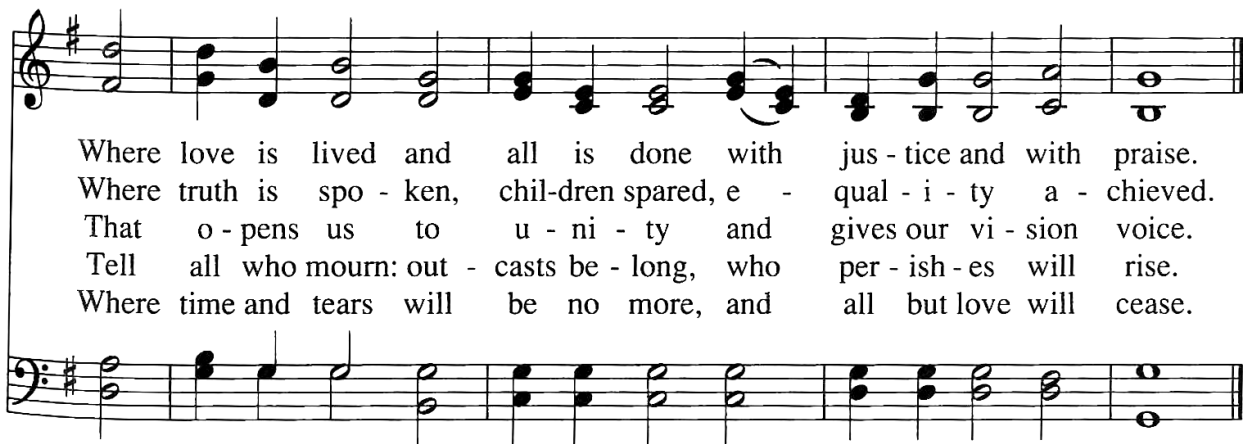
# O for a World

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32–35; 1 Cor. 1:26–31; 1 Pet. 3:8–12



1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spect's each oth - er's ways,  
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
3 We wel-come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.  
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
Where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

*Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.*

Tune: AZMON C.M.

Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God  
Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

## **Sermon**

“The Answer to Division is Community”  
- Rev. Daniel J. Doty

# **THE OFFERING**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

## **Offertory**

*“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”* - arr. Jane Holstein

Piano: Janice Kobb

© 1967/2006 OCP Publications

## **\*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.**

GIVE ONLINE HERE



## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**God of generous love, receive these gifts as signs of our commitment to your beloved community. Use them to tear down walls, heal divisions, welcome neighbors, and nurture compassion. May our giving embody the truth that we belong to one another, called together in Christ to practice kindness, justice, forgiveness, and peace. 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

*"O for a World" vs 3-5*  
(words and music page 6)

## \*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

*"Toccata in g minor" - Johann Pachelbel*  
Organ: Janice Kobb  
Public domain

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

|                                                              |                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Tech Team:                                                   | Ann Hagan                                             |
| Liturgist:                                                   | Rev. John Phillips                                    |
| Ushers:                                                      | Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell |
| Greeters:                                                    | Bill Westfall and Mary Flohr                          |
| Special Music:                                               | Joey and Lucas Dodge                                  |
| <b>* a special thanks to our guest organist, Janice Kobb</b> |                                                       |

Today's altar flowers are provided by:

Donna Marlow      *"In Memory of Dave."*

Sylvia Taylor      *"In Celebration of our 58th Anniversary."*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **FALL BOOK STUDY**

**Wednesdays,  
beginning September 9th  
12:00 pm**

This fall, we will begin a study of the book, "I'm Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To." The author, Lilian Daniel, a dear friend of Dan's, argues that it's time for Christians to stop apologizing and realize that how we talk about Christian community matters. Copies of the book are available for purchase from the church office for \$18.

## **FALL BIBLE STUDY**

**Wednesdays,  
beginning September 9th  
1:00 pm**

The Fall 2026 Bible Study will continue a study of the Christian Scriptures in chronological order beginning September 9. We will study James, Colossians, and Hebrews. The study will take place on Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the David Bacon Room. A reading list that will allow you to prepare for each class will be distributed on Sunday mornings beginning August 23rd. See you there!

## **FIRST SERVE DAY OF SERVICE**

**Sunday,  
September 13th  
7:30 AM—1:00 PM**

Join United Youth Ministries as we serve our neighbors in Akron through First Serve's Annual Day of Service. This year, we'll be giving new life to a preschool mural at the 915 North Main Project with a fresh coat of paint!

We'll meet at the church at 7:30 AM and carpool to the project. The day includes donuts, an interfaith sending service, hands-on service, and lunch provided by First Serve. Sign up with Ms. Anne! We're also looking for two adult volunteers to join us.

## **ROOTS AND WINGS**

**Sunday,  
September 13th  
4:30 pm**

**Roots and Wings** is a fellowship group for parents or grandparents and grandchildren to grow in faith and friendship together. This is open to all children, but our activities will be geared for elementary-aged grandchildren. If your child wants to come and doesn't have a local grandparent, we can find an adoptive grandparent that would like to participate. The theme of our September meeting will be "School Days."

## **FALL LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

**Saturday,  
September 19th  
9:00-10:30 am**

On Saturday, September 19, in lieu of the Men's Prayer Breakfast, we will hold a Leadership Retreat from 9-10:30 AM. Come and enjoy a shared breakfast and fellowship time as we begin our time together. We will then discuss the needs for any new officers and board/committee members. We will also go over office procedures. This discussion will include issues such as meeting times/dates, minutes, turning in receipts, obtaining reimbursements, etc. While this is designed for our officers and board/committee chairs, anyone serving on a board/committee is invited to attend. Please RSVP to the church office by September 14.

## 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*

*Carol McFarland*

*Jack and Helen McKee*

*Donna Phillips*

*Bob Poff*

*Lt. John Norton*

*Gary Rambler*

*Ensign 5 Kaylie Spear*

*Lt. Maxwell Spear*

*Jeff Sullivan*

*Richard and Karen Thomason*

*Troy and Kara*

*Kim and Noel Walters*

*PO3 Kaitlyn Wetter*

*Don Woerz*

*Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group*

**EQUIPPING  
ADVOCACY  
AND JUSTICE  
MINISTRIES.**



**Neighbors  
in Need**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

When you give to Neighbors in Need, you help build a just world for all. Thank you! Learn more at [www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin)

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

**IN PERSON | ONLINE WORSHIP**

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—3:00 pm  
Fridays—9:00 am—12:00 pm

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330-633-4931 | [info@fcctallmadge.org](mailto:info@fcctallmadge.org)