



***Trinity United Church of Christ***

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**Trinity United Church of Christ**

**July 23, 2023**

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

8AM and 10:30AM Worship

*Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!*

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*Congregational responses in **bold print**.*

*\* Denotes standing as you are able.*

TIME OF SHARING

GREETING

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

We gather in the name of the Triune God,  
The Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

PRELUDE – “God Reigns o'er All the Earth” – *C. Callahan*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to celebrate God's blessings to us.

**Surely God is in this place!**

We come to open ourselves to God's guidance and love.

**Surely God is in this place!**

We come to see more clearly God's presence in our lives.

**Surely God is in this place!**

We come to see God in this community of seekers.

**Surely God is in this place!**

We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God.

**Surely God is in this place! Let us worship!**

\*HYMN #21 “God Reigns o'er All the Earth”

**\*PRAYER**

**Holy One, you know us already. Help us to know you better.  
Let us see you all around us. Fill our worship with your Spirit so  
that we may learn to recognize your presence in all places. Amen.**

**\*SUNG RESPONSE #84 “This is the Day” (v 1)**

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

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, in the fields of our lives, we strive to be fruitful, but we fall short.  
We get so comfortable that we sleep when we need to be vigilant  
about the errors in our own lives and the injustices around us.  
We are so casual about wrongdoing that it creeps into our lives  
and threatens to overwhelm the good we do.  
We do not pay attention to the unjust systems which shape our lives,  
that we must work to transform so that your  
Beloved Community may come to be. Forgive us.  
Keep us awake so that we can produce the lives you call us to live. Amen.**

*(Moment of Silent Prayer)*

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**You are not God’s tenants or employees;  
you are God’s precious family.  
In the words of the apostle Paul,  
“You did not receive a spirit of servitude to fall back into fear,  
but you have received a spirit of adoption.”  
As God’s children, in God’s embrace, you are forgiven and free. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Julia Brown**

## SCRIPTURES

### **Wisdom of Solomon 12:13,16-19**

For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people,  
to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly;  
nor can any king or monarch confront you about those whom you have punished.  
You are righteous and you rule all things righteously deeming it alien to your power  
to condemn anyone who does not deserve to be punished. For your strength is the  
source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all.  
For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power,  
and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it.  
Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness,  
and with great forbearance you govern us;  
for you have power to act whenever you choose.

### **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone  
who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and  
sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore  
grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to  
him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come  
from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want  
us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would  
uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at  
harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be  
burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” Then he left the crowds and went into the  
house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of  
the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is  
the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of  
the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age,  
and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it  
be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of  
his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of  
fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like  
the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

## SERMON

UCC General Synod Conversation

**HYMN #567 “Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit”**

**PRAYER/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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH # 886**

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us. You are God.  
You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved  
Your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
Who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now. You are God.  
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
You are our God. We worship you.**

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

**\*CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS**

**(5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Mission)**

**Hoffman Home for Youth**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #778**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.***

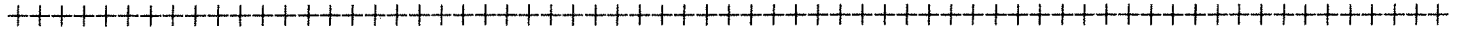
**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Gracious God, filled by your generosity to us, may we be generous to others.  
Accept from us these gifts of word and money as we commit our lives to you. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #181 “You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”**

**\*FINAL BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE – “Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit” – J. Parker Huber**



Surely God is in this Place: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, was written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood of Cleveland, Ohio, is a certified leader of InterPlay, a system of forms in movement, storytelling and vocalizing that brings body and soul together, and brings communities together. She teaches suicide first aid via Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Adapted for online use by Susan A. Blain.

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*You Are Salt for the Earth*. Words and music: Marty Haugen © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

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**Today’s Worship Participants**

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young		Pastor
Grace Winakor		Seminary Student
Roberta Weiant	8:00AM	Liturgists
Nancy MacMeekin	10:30AM	
Jane Eiker	10:30AM	Organist
Sara Shank	8:00AM	Assistant Organist
John McKay	10:30AM	Senior Choir Director
Mark Luckenbaugh	8:00AM	Percussion
	8:00AM	Ushers
	10:30AM	
Janet & Steve Sheely		Greeters
Janet Sheely		Acolyte
Georgia Hallabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes, Sue Churchill,		Tech Team
Russell Bailey, Carl Barrick, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Mike Chase		

## God Reigns o'er All the Earth

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

1. God reigns o'er all the earth!  
Green hills and val-leys low,  
the farms and towns in golds and browns  
God's grace and beau-ty show.  
God reigns o'er all the earth!  
Stone banks and spread-ing plains,  
in rain-bow hues—reds, yel-lows, blues—  
of streams and coun-try lanes.
  
2. God reigns o'er hu-man life!  
Through youth and ag-ing years,  
in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth,  
in all our hopes and fears.  
God reigns o'er hu-man life!  
Our in-spi-ra-tion still.  
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams,  
we see God's reign-ing will.
  
3. God reigns o'er time and space!  
In his-tory's by-gone days,  
Christ's faith-ful folk in rev-erence spoke  
to bring God earn-est praise.  
God reigns o'er time and space!  
O'er gal-ax-y and sun,  
through time-less years the cos-mos hears  
the heaven-ly mu-sic run.

## GOD

4. God reigns! Em-man-u-el!  
God with us ev-ery day,  
in all our past and to the last,  
our com-fort and our stay.  
God reigns! Em-man-u-el!  
Let praise to Christ be sung!  
God's pres-ence here makes all things dear.  
Let joy-ful bells be rung!

Isa. 52:7–10



## Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit

567

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1989

1. Stars and plan-ets flung in or-bit,  
gal-ax-ies that swirl through space,  
Pow-ers hid with-in the at-om,  
cells that form an in-fant's face:  
These, O God, in si-lence praise you;  
by your wis-dom they are made.
  
2. Skies a-dorned with sun-set splen-dor,  
si-lent peaks in calm re-pose,  
Gold-en fields a-wait-ing har-vest,  
foam-ing surf and fra-grant rose:  
Earth, its boun-ty clothed with beau-ty,  
ech-oes all cre-a-tion's praise.
  
3. Life in won-drous, wild pro-fu-sion,  
seed and fruit, each flower and tree,  
Beast and fish and swarm-ing in-sect,  
soar-ing bird, re-joic-ing, free:  
These, your crea-tures, join in cho-rus,  
prais-ing you in word-less song.
  
4. Hu-man-kind, earth's deep-est mys-tery,  
born of dust but touched by grace,  
Torn a-part by tongue and col-or,  
yet a sin-gle, striv-ing race:  
We, in whom you trace your im-age,  
add our words to na-ture's song.

## You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

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Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

1. You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!  
Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!  
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!
  
2. You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!  
Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!  
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!
  
3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!  
Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!  
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!
  
4. We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!  
Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!  
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!

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Matt. 5:13–15

## STEWARDSHIP AND CREATION

5. Gra-cious God, we bring be-fore you  
gifts of hu-man life a-lone,  
Truth that throbs through song and sto-ry,  
vi-sions caught in paint and stone:  
These, O God, we glad-ly of-fer,  
gifts to praise the Giv-er's name.
  
6. Christ, the Word be-fore cre-a-tion  
as cre-a-tion's fin-al goal,  
Once you came for earth's re-demp-tion;  
by your Spir-it make earth whole.  
Then, O God, the new cre-a-tion  
will your praise for-ev-er sing.

Ps. 148