



September 5th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Union Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming, Earthwise,
Progressive Christian Congregation*

Elk River, Minnesota 763-441-1203

www.elkriverucc.org / churchoffice@elkriverucc.org

Welcome!

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomes everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey.

As we begin to gather in person, we will continue to offer worship via Facebook Live broadcasts every Sunday at 10am. You can be here in person or participate virtually during, or any time after the service.

You can contact the church at any time. See office hours below.

Grace and Peace to all.



VISION

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

(Micah 6:8, (NIV))

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Mission Statement



God calls us to minister to each other. This ministry goes beyond our congregation into the community, wider world, and to the earth itself. We seek to reach those in the margins of society, to empower the powerless, and to leave this earth a better place than when we each arrived.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF CENTERING

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."
- Maya Angelou

LIGHTING THE CANDLES and WELCOME

If you are in-person, we invite you to fill out the friendship pad to let us know you are here.

If you are worshipping virtually, we invite you to click a reaction button on Facebook to let us know you are with us.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

742 Gathered Here

742

Text and music: Phil Porter, 1990

1 2

Gath-ered here in the mys-tery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong

3 4

bod - y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir - it draw near.

This chant may be sung as a round.

CALL TO WORSHIP **(PLEASE JOIN IN CALL AND RESPONSE)**

One: Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned. A new day has been born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

Many: We experience the beauty of God's creation and the wonder of all creatures and the entire human family. We remember those whose love has shaped us and those whose struggle for justice has also shaped and formed us.

One: We gather as church – in our sanctuary and in our homes – to worship God, to share prayers and gifts, to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.

Many: May God bless us, so that what we do in this time together, may be honest, sacred, and filled with hope.

HYMN 391 vs 1-3 "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

CHRISTIAN UNITY

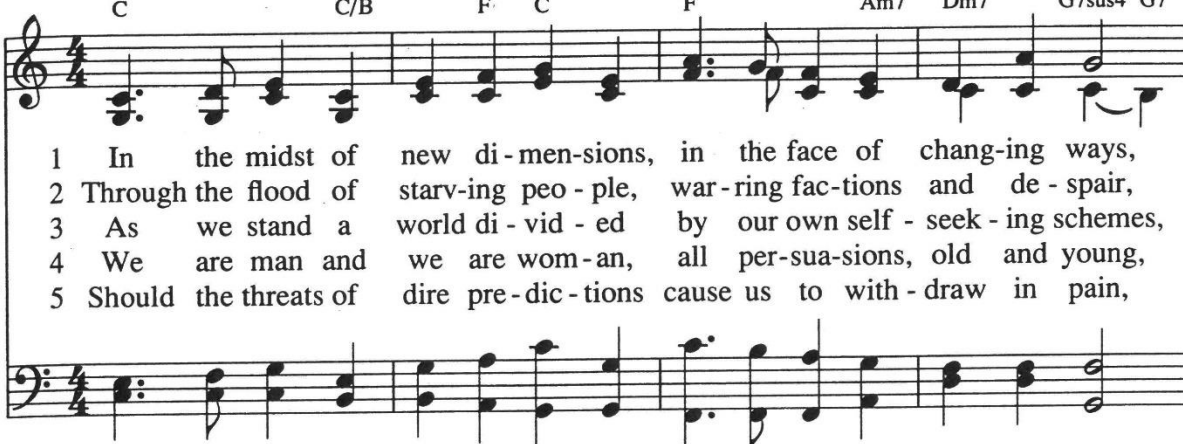
In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

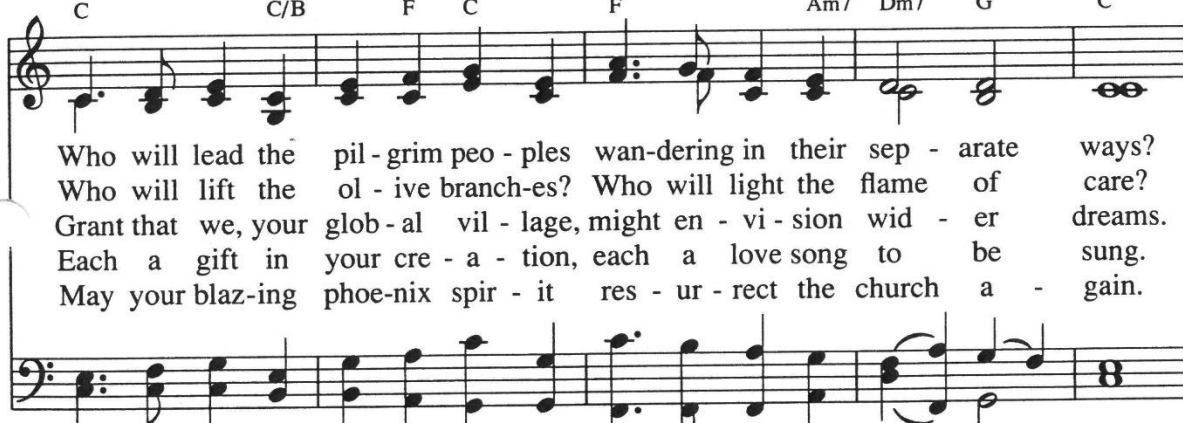
Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7



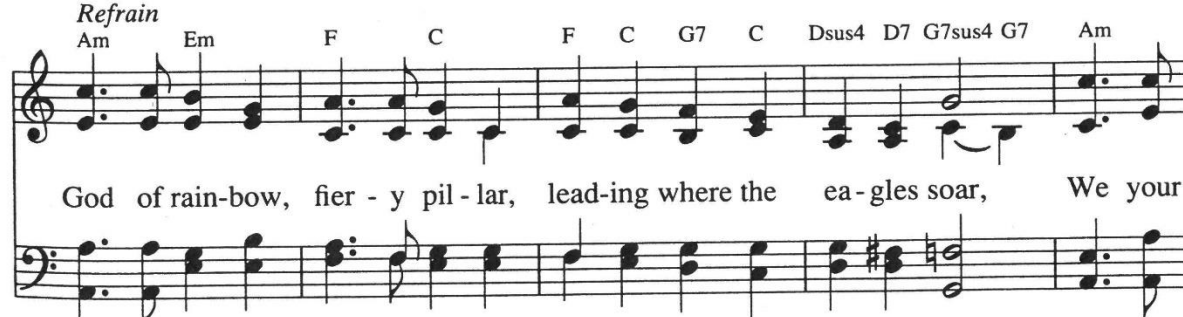
1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C



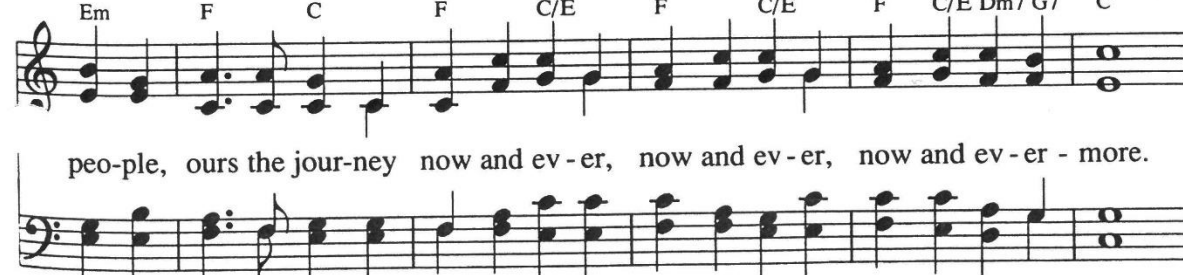
Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am



God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea - gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C



peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PEACE PRAYER

GREETING OF PEACE

In the same spirit in which we receive the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ, let us offer to one another our own sign of peace.

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

Special Music, Gigi Nauer

SCRIPTURE

Mark 7: 24-37

Mark 7:24-37

Jesus left Gennesaret and went to the territory of Tyre and Sidon. There he went into a certain house and wanted no one to recognize him, but he could not pass unrecognized. A woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She approached Jesus and fell at his feet. The woman, who was Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, begged Jesus to expel the demon from her daughter.

He told her, "Let the children of the household satisfy themselves at table first. It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."

She replied, "Yes, Rabbi, but even the dogs under the table eat the family's scraps."

Then Jesus said to her, "For saying this, you may go home happy; the demon has left your daughter." When she got home, she found her daughter in bed and the demon gone.

Jesus left the region of Tyre and returned by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Ten Cities.

Some people brought an individual who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and begged Jesus to lay hands on that person. Jesus took the afflicted one aside, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the deaf ears and, spitting, touched the mute tongue with his saliva. Then Jesus looked up into heaven and, with a deep sigh, said, "Ephphatha!"- that is, "Be opened!" At once the deaf ears were opened and the impediment cured; the one who had been healed began to speak plainly.


Then Jesus warned them not to tell anyone; but the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. Their amazement went beyond all bounds: "He has done everything well! He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!"

REFLECTION

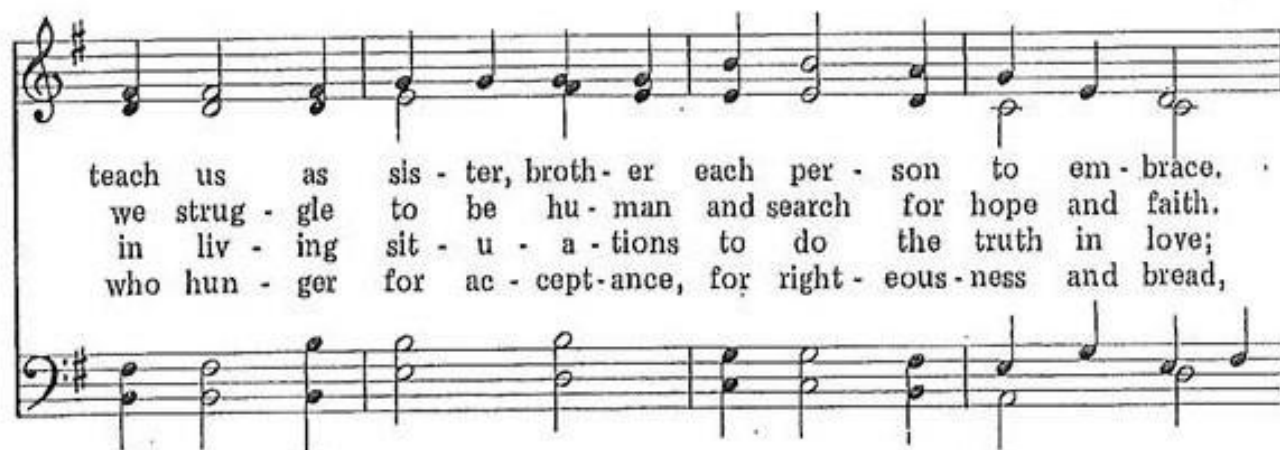
Restored to Community

Help Us Accept Each Other 388

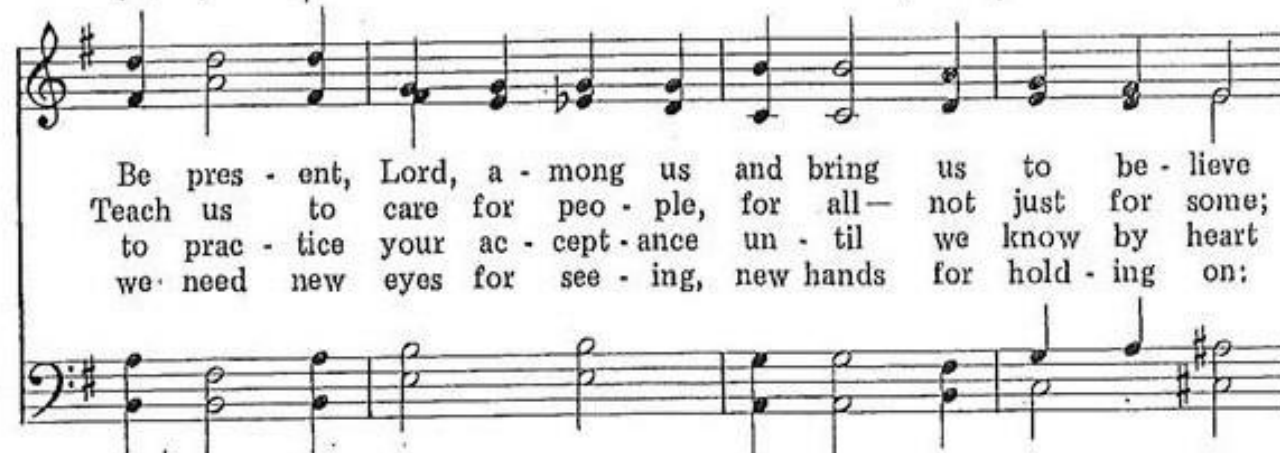
Unison



1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2. Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3. Let your ac - cept - ance change us, so that we may be moved
 4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith,
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cept - ance, for right - eous - ness and bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all - not just for some;
 to prac - tice your ac - cept - ance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come,
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

OUR TIME OF SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT (let us pray together)

Our Creator in Heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your 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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory
forever. Amen.

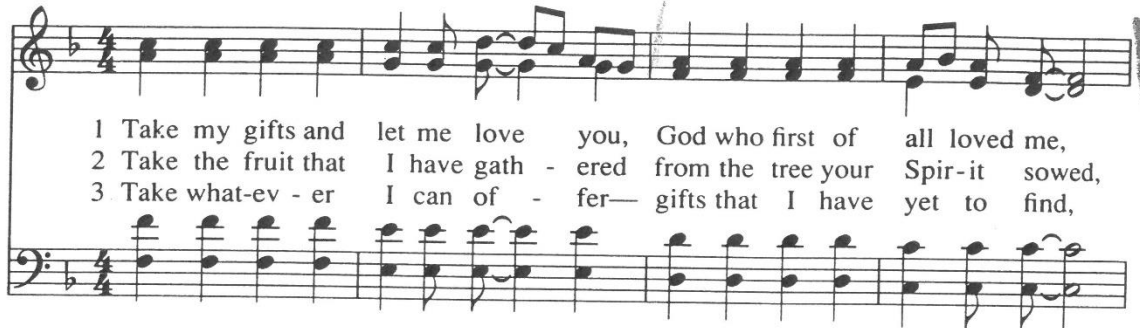
INVITATION TO GIVE/RECEIVING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

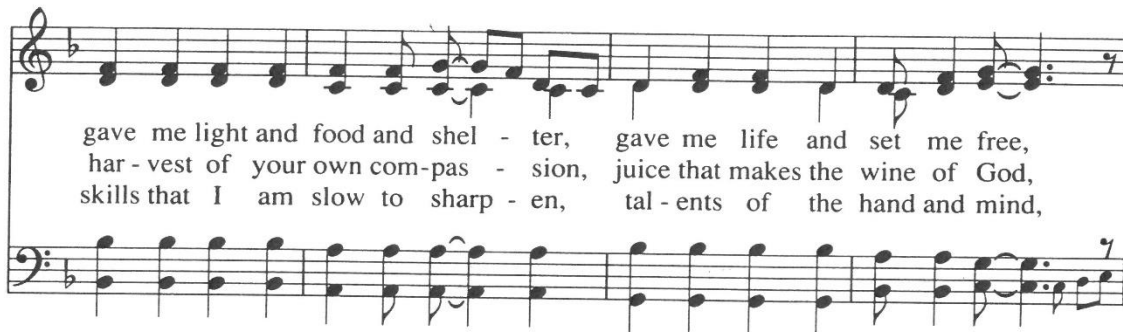
STEWARDSHIP AND CREATION

Take My Gifts

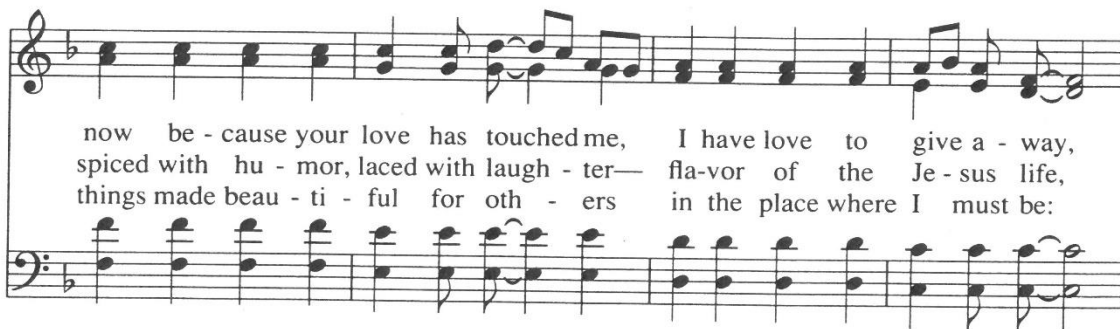
562

Shirley Erena Murray, 1991


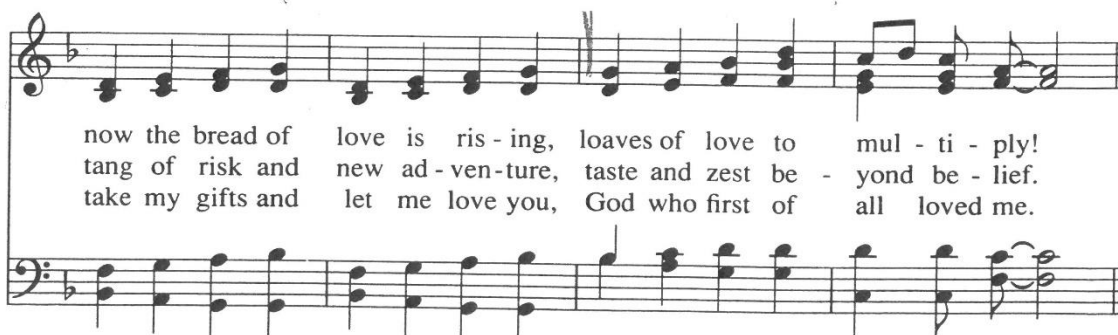
1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
 2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
 3 Take what - ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,



gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
 har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
 skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,



now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
 spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
 things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:



now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text "almost instantaneously."

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.
Colin Gibson, 1991

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (let us pray together)

We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen

Hymn 349 vs 1-3

"I Come With Joy"

HOLY COMMUNION

349

I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

Unison



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will

free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that
stay, And go with joy to love the world and

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.
live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation Leader: Come to the table. This is the welcome table – the table of grace – the table of love. God has prepared a feast of good things, a feast of peace and justice. Come and taste. Eat and be filled. Drink deep and never thirst again. Come to the feast that God prepares – the table to which God invites us all – no matter who we are.

People: We come with a hunger for connection and a thirst for justice.

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger and all who listen to me will never be thirsty."

People: We come in celebration and remembrance. We come knowing that it will never be in the proclamations of the governments of this world, nor in the brutality of war that our world will be saved.

Leader: It will be in the simple routines of life, such as gathering around the table, breaking the bread and sharing the cup, that we will recognize our neighbor as sister, brother, creature.

People: We are invited to this holy meal whoever we are, from wherever we are in life. We need not bring anything but ourselves.

Leader: May God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Open your hearts.

People: We open them to God and to one another.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God:

People: It is good and right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you our thanks and praise, hope-breathing, love-giving, still-speaking God. You have shaped us with infinite care, creatures of delight and passion, setting us as gifted creatures in this abundant world. It is right and good and our joy to give you thanks.

REMEMBERING THE STORY

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

One: These are the gifts of God, for you, the people of God.
Come, for all is ready.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (let us pray together)

Gracious and loving Creator, you gather us together as your beloved community, celebrating at this table of plenty. Now send us out into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal the broken, to free the imprisoned, and to make the powerful care. Grant us the strength to persevere in resisting evil, courage to proclaim peace and justice in all we say and do, and teach us always to abide in your love. Amen.

HYMN 349 vs 4-5 "I Come With Joy" (see previous Hymn)

BENEDICTION

One: And now the service begins. Go forth into the world in the knowledge that we are God's body, that hope for a new world is the blood of our veins, that the struggle for justice is the beat to which our hearts respond, and that God's promise is the very stuff of which our bones are wrought.

Many: May we go forth to praise God from whom all blessings flow.

One: Go in peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Elk River Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Pastor: Rev. Robin Raudabaugh

Deacon: Marce Ediger

Office Administrator: Giuliana Beckwith

Greeters: Jan and Larry Wick

Senior Choir and Handbell Director:

Ushers: Joyce Riess

Gigi Nauer

Liturgist:

Piano & Organ: Carson Schneider

Hospitality: Rohs Family

Director of Faith Formation:

Flowers: Rev. Robin Raudabaugh

Announcements

Office Hours

Office hours for the church this week are Sunday through Wednesday, 9:00am to 1:00pm. Call the church at (763) 441-1203 if you have general questions or need a pastor. Office email - churchoffice@elkriverucc.org.

Pastoral Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, an accident, or a death, even while Pastor Robin is on vacation, please contact her directly via **text** at 651.216.9012, **phone** or **email** revrobin@elkriverucc.org. You may also contact the church office though the response may take longer.

Church Materials

Copies of the Sunday sermon and bulletin are available in person or via Facebook, our website, and the UCC Squared Newsletter (email).

KEPT IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers our congregation members: Ella Rivers, Donna Church, Musz Bailey, Jim Babcock, Shelley Sherper, Bobbie Berg, Susan Olsen, Jackie Schuelein, Carol Lloyd, Joanne Burdick, Ruby Cawthra, Jane Houlton, Marion Marcott, Cheryl Wold, Judy Halgren, Amy Britt, Bailey Rosdahl, Jimmy Stevens, Dee & Jim Stevens (Jimmy's parents), Dave Foley, John Olson, Nicole [Kilber] Teske, Linda Fenton, Dave Halgren, Diane Narr, Joan Axen and Nancy Andersen.

SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEKS

Sunday, September 5, 2021

10:00 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

Communion Sunday

In Person & Live Via Facebook

Liturgist:

11:00 a.m. Hospitality: Rohs Family

Monday, September 6th, 2021

Labor Day- Church office CLOSED

Tuesday, September 7th, 2021

6:30 p.m. Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday, September 8th, 2021

3:30 p.m. SARI Demonstration

Sherburne County Gov't center

5:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Practice

Thursday, September 9th, 2021

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

Sunday, September 12th, 2021

10:00 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

Communion Sunday

In Person & Live Via Facebook

Liturgist:

11:00 a.m. Hospitality: POTLUCK

Monday, September 13th, 2021

9:30a.m. SARI Meeting

5:00p.m. Sundays school teachers

Tuesday, September 14th, 2021

6:30 p.m. Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday, September 15th, 2021

3:30 p.m. SARI Demonstration

Sherburne County Gov't center

5:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Practice

Thursday, September 16th, 2021

9:00 a.m.-6pm Garage Sale set-up

1:00p.m. Outreach and Justice

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

6:30p.m. Diaconate

Friday & Sat., September 17-18, 2021

Church Garage Sale