“COME TO THE WATERS.”
ISAIAH 55:1

August 2, 2020
COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ)

August 2, 2020  
10:00 AM  

The Reverend Steven Price  
Pastor

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

Words of Welcome  
As we begin our service, just some notes of preparation:  
1. For Communion: get a cracker/bread/juice/beverage.  
2. Prayer requests – type into the chat function – Our thanks to Beth Fulkerson for reading them.  
3. After Benediction we’ll have Announcements then Virtual Coffee Hour.

Prelude  
“Adagio”  
Dr. Meng Zhou

Call to Worship (inspired by Isaiah 55:1-3)  
by Christine Longhurst

One:  
Come to the water, all you who thirst—  
Many: come drink deeply from the river of life.

One:  
Come to the water, all you who are weary—  
Many: come rest in the quiet pools of God’s love.

One:  
Come to the water, all you who long for a justice—  
Many: come be renewed in God’s ever-flowing stream.

One:  
For God is here among us,  
washing away the dust and grime of our lives,  
and pouring out the Spirit on all who thirst.

ALL:  
Let’s worship God together.

Opening Song  
Bridge Over Troubled Water  
lyrics within video

While not technically a hymn, this familiar song can offer many of us a few moments when we, too, can rest in the quiet waters of God’s love while listening to and singing along to a “Bridge Over Troubled Water.”

Sharing with Children  
“Flat Jesus”  
The Children of CCC

Jesus is With Our Animals We Love!  
All sizes and shapes we know God’s friends come  
With short ears and long ears so droopy on some!

Some howl like a wolf, some bark at the moon  
Some hang their tongues out hoping dinner is soon  
(continued)
Some say not a word, some whisper real quiet
Some fly around town and cause quite a riot!

Some friends are all fluffy and cuddly and warm
Some make it alright in the midst of a storm!

With wings and with paws with big eyes they see
That YOU are beloved by our God and me!

Jesus loves all our friends and knows them like you do
Like Maggie and Winnie, like Frankie and Lulu!
We pray for them all and we pray for you too,
So happy that God made all creatures and YOU!

Thank you, God for the comfort and companionship of all animals - stuffed and not so stuffed, too. Amen.

Special Music
“Conviction of the Heart” ~ sung by Bill Kelly
Accompanied by Rob Goodling

ENGAGING

Scripture Reading Matthew 13:33, 44-52 Lector: Dan Robillard

We have heard multiple readings during the last month when Jesus tried to communicate what the Kingdom of Heaven is like; seeds sown on various soil types, weeds and wheat, a mustard seed. Today we'll hear a few more parables which I think indicates just how difficult it is to explain and to grasp this concept we use so readily in our everyday conversation. After today's reading, I'll employ the word “kin-dom” instead of kingdom, a word we chose with intention when rewriting our mission statement. Kin-dom reminds us that we're sisters and brothers, that we are kin, on this journey.

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 51 "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." 52 And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Meditation
The Reverend Steven Price
RESPONDING

Song of Preparation  
*Sweet Hour of Prayer*  as sung by Radiance Acapella

*Radiance Acapella is a men’s acapella group from Zimbabwe, Africa.*

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Feel free to grab a cracker or slice of bread and small cup of juice before the reading of these words of preparation and institution of the Lord’s Supper.

Blessing the Bread, the Cup

**Elder 1: Elaine Page**

This morning you are invited for Holy Communion in the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is not the loaf of bread you might see on your screen. The Body of Christ is not even the bread or cracker on your table. The Body of Christ is us; we are strengthened by sharing together this meal of hope and grace and presence.

**Elder 2: Fred Brown**

As the Body of Christ, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:

“Take and eat, all of you: This is my body, surrendered for you.”

*The bread of life. TAKE AND EAT.*

**Elder 1:**

Jesus also took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to his disciples and said:

“Take and drink, all of you: This is the seal of a new covenant, my life poured out. I will drink this cup with you again at the table of God’s joy. Whenever you do these things, remember me.”

*The cup of blessing. TAKE AND DRINK.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Elder 2:**

In thanksgiving for this meal of grace, celebrated virtually, we claim that Christ’s love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies. Our tongues have tasted the good news and our lives are filled with the Spirit that hovered over creation and blew fresh hope on Pentecost. Amen.
**Prayers for Our Community and the World**

For healthcare providers we love:
Bethany Akins, Heather Egloff Allen, Amy Benjamin, Ashleigh Brooks, Christopher Foote, Emily Strong Freedman, Beth Gobeli, Kathleen Iannone, Don Lyke, Margo Markesteijn, Rachel Schur Marsala, Erin Mast, Wende McNaney, Mark Ott, Marsha Reed, Feng Shi, Bethany Thompson, Michael Underwood, Gene Ver and Amy Wanck.

Hear now our community prayers read by Beth Fulkerson of the requests noted in our chat function. After request... God in your goodness, grace or mercy... People: Hear our Prayer.

Let us say together the prayer Jesus taught those he loved . . .

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father (or Creator) which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Invitation and Dedication of our Offering**

What we have received from you, O Loving God, we now offer back to you: our treasure, our time, and our lives.
Bless our gifts and multiply them for your purposes.
Amen

If you are able to give at this time, then your gifts can be received via US Mail, using our new Tithe.ly giving “app,” or sending checks through your bank. Thank you.

**GOING FORTH**

**Closing Song**

_We Are Called_  
Lyrics within video

*Thanks to the Herman Family and Friend for recording this for us.*

_Sing along with our friends to this uplifting hymn reminding us that “We Are Called.”_

**Blessing**

God came into the world amidst violence, oppression, and despair and was able to bring life from that darkness.
We are called to head into similar circumstances.
Let us bring life to those we encounter this week. Amen.

**Announcements**

**Virtual Fellowship Time**

**Elders** for the month of August – Elaine Page and Fred Brown
Today’s ZOOM service was recorded. To access the recording, visit our website at Cccooentoall.org. It should be posted early this week.

1. **Plagues of history, COVID 19 and CCC!!** Our final session will be Wednesday, August 5 at 6:30 pm via ZOOM! Join historian Dr. Wanda Wakefield as she guides us through the plague of the Spanish flu! The presentation will run about 45 minutes or so with time for discussion.

2. **Bread Ministry in Cooperation with Salem Nutrition Center** – Salem Nutrition Center has moved to "sandwich grab and go" lunch bags during the COVID pandemic and is now struggling to obtain enough bread for weekly meals. They would need us to bring them 24 of the giant bread loaves once every 2 months. If you’re interested in participating, please contact Janet Herman at 889-2697 and she will coordinate what is needed and when. Thanks so much!

3. **Caring for Our Community** – Small World Bakery reached out to Community Christian Church asking if we were able to take unsold produce/bread and share it with those who might need it. We said, "YES!" It seems that Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. work best for this Chili farmer, so we meet at his location on Exchange Street in Rochester then share what we receive.

   This is a small gift of food/produce and it fits so well with our mission to make God's love real by caring for our community. It's also great to be working with another local farmer to feed our neighbors. Our Ministry of Justice and Outreach will take the lead in this ministry.

4. **Rally to End Racism – Saturday, August 15, 5:00 PM – Chili Town Hall** In an effort to show unity in faith against racism, there will be an Anti-Racism Rally to demonstrate the value of diversity and lead the charge to love, respect and support one another. We are invited to join other faith communities to stand together during this time of national grieving and division and be a voice for unity to all people. For more information, contact Shawna Lusk or Pastor Steven.
5. **Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations this week:**

- August 4  Susan Dobbins, AJ Puccia
- August 6  Chris Ayers, Butch Bettis, Bob & Carol Giblin (Anniversary)
- August 8  CJ Geer, Jacquie Schur

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**Theme:**

*Jesus is ALWAYS With us!*

Matthew 28:20 - “Behold, I am with you always.”

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Christian Education has some FUN things planned for the kids this summer – even if we can’t physically be together. The kids will be taking pictures of “Flat Jesus” and themselves showing the ways Jesus is always with them. Each week in our ZOOM church service the kids’ pictures will be featured during the Children’s Story (thanks to Ron & Jeannie Strong!).

Our summer program will run from July 12th through August 16th. Each week the bulletin will print a reminder of the upcoming deadline so everyone can stay on schedule.

**Week #6 – August 16 – Submit by August 2nd - TODAY!**

“Jesus is with us at our homes”

(Picture of your front door.)

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**COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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