



*An Open & Affirming Congregation of  
the United Church of Christ*

24 September 2023 – 10:30 AM  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
**Homecoming Sunday**

**\*indicates the congregation is invited to stand.  
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

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PRELUDE

*Voluntary In A Major*  
Vlada Volkova-Moran, organist

John Stanley

WELCOME

The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

\*GATHERING

**We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old – who yearn for your face,  
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in – the rich and the haughty, gather us in – the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.**

\*RESPONSIVE PSALM

from *Psalms 105*

Andrea Seeger, liturgist

One: Give thanks to God, and call upon God's name,

**All: Make known God's deeds among the peoples.**

One: Sing praise, and tell of God's wonderful works.

**All: Let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.**

One: Remember the wonderful works God has done,

**All: And sing with joy!**

\*HYMN 7 [hymn sheet]

*All People That on Earth Do Dwell* [stanzas 1, 3-4]

OLD HUNDRETH

\*PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:  
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.  
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.  
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.  
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.**

\*GREETING OF PEACE

ANTHEM

*O God, Beyond All Praising*  
Chancel Choir • Joshua Porter, guest conductor

arr. Richard Proulx

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

SERMON

*Where Are You in Line?*

Pastor Dave

RESPONSE

South African Hymn

(Masithi:) **Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa**  
 (Masithi:) **Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa**  
**Amen, Bawo, Amen, Bawo,**  
**Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa.**

(Sing amen) **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**  
 (Sing amen) **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**  
**Amen, amen, amen, amen,**  
**Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

RESPONSE [as above]

OFFERTORY

Invitation

Offertory Anthem

[www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving](http://www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving)*I Sing th' Almighty Power of God*

arr. Milburn Price

\*COVENANT

**We covenant with God and with each other:**  
**to walk together in all God's ways as the Holy is revealed to us;**  
**to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus' ministry in this church;**  
**to celebrate through worship God's amazing gifts of unity and diversity;**  
**to take up Christ's mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;**  
**to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;**  
**for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.**

\*HYMN 423 [hymn sheet]

*Great Is Your Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Voluntary in F Major*

John Stanley