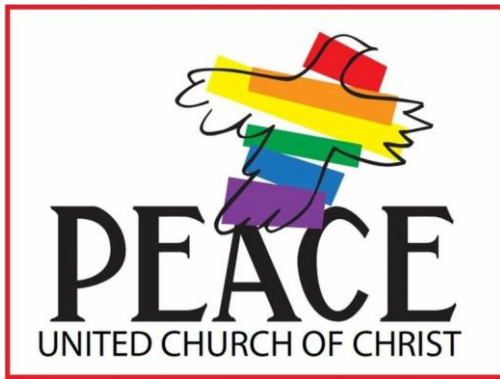




*An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

13 September 2026 – 10:30 AM
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Founders Day (13 September 1857)

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

PRELUDE

Schmucke dich, o liebe Seele, BWV 654
Vlada Volkova-Moran, organist

J.S. Bach

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'r'y, 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.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

James Neef, liturgist

One: Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised.

All: God's greatness is unsearchable.

One: Let us meditate on the glory and splendor of God's wondrous works.

All: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love.

*HYMN #391 [hymn sheet]

In the Midst of New Dimensions (stanzas 1&2)

NEW DIMENSIONS

*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.**

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

*GREETING OF PEACE

ANTHEM

I Will Sing!
Chancel Choir • Cheryl Anderson, director

C. Wesley/P. Murphy

Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

SERMON

Mercy Strained

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

OFFERTORY

Invitation

Offertory Music

Light of A Clear Blue Morning

Dolly Parton/arr. Mac Huff

*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 #391 [hymn sheet]

In the Midst of New Dimensions (stanzas 3-5)

NEW DIMENSIONS

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in G minor, BWV 535

J.S. Bach

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.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985

Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994