



*An Open & Affirming, Creation Justice
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

29 September 2024 – 10:30 AM
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Homecoming

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

PRELUDE *Where Love Is* J. B. Doxey
JAZZ ON HIGH • Luke Shepherd, piano & vocals; Chris Charman, bass; Mike Shannon, drums
Err Shirley, guest soloist

WELCOME The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

*GATHERING SONG

**Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

*PREFACE (in dialogue with Psalm 124) xxxxxxxx, liturgist

One: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,

All: We would have been swallowed up,

One: When the flood would have swept us away,

All: God made a way through the waters.

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

All: Who made heaven and earth.

*HYMN Laurie Zelman/Mark Miller

**You know my words, before they're said. You know my need and I am fed.
You give me life. You know my ways, my strength my path for all my days...**

**If I should fly beyond the dawn, that shadows will not overcome,
If I lie down in deepest night, still you are there, my truth my light...**

**Our every thought, each word we say, the whole of time, the present day,
Are held within your mighty hand too wonderful to comprehend...**

**O mend my heart and free my voice. From sin released, I will rejoice.
O search me now, my spirit cries, and let my song of praise arise...**

*A 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

Primer Question For Today
Have you ever felt "delivered?"

GOSPEL

Mark 9:38-50

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

MEDITATION

Light of the World

Stephen Schwartz

SERMON

Delivered for a Purpose

Pastor Dave

RESPONSE

South African Hymn

(Masithi:) **Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa** (Sing amen) **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**
(Masithi:) **Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa** (Sing amen) **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**
Amen, Bawo, Amen, Bawo, **Amen, amen, amen, amen,**
Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa. **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY

Invitation

Featured Ministry: Children, Youth and Family

www.PeaceUnited.org/giving

Offertory Music

Love at Home

J.H. McNaughton



*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 181 [hymn sheet]

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

BRING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

My Grand Plan

Rob Rokicki