

# The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.

**Bold indicates congregational response.**

Ringing of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome

Prelude "How Glorious Is Thy Name" Mozart

Call to Worship

Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God's ways?

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Our church school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together!

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Christ Jesus, we have gathered in your name, seeking your wisdom.**

**May your teachings guide us, may your actions inspire us, may your grace compel us into greater love. Be with us as we open our hearts and minds to your Spirit that we might continue to grow and learn from you. Amen.**

First Reading of Scripture James 2:1-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

**Thanks be to God!**

1

Call to Confession

+ Prayer of Confession

Teacher Jesus, You who taught thousands; and yet were willing to learn from the least of these, we confess that we pretend to know when in truth we still wonder.

**Forgive our pretense, that we may open ourselves to unexpected teachers, to fresh ideas, to one another, to You.**

Vulnerable Christ, You who lived in generous love, we confess that we have closed ourselves off, that we have seen so much suffering, that we stop looking; rather than see and respond to those in need.

**Forgive our neglect that we may care for one another and follow in the example you set for us. In your name we pray. Amen**

*Silent Prayer*

+ Assurance of Grace

Disciples, followers, students of the living Christ, know that you are forgiven always and freed to begin anew through God's everlasting mercy and love.

**Praise, be, to God! Amen.**

Announcements

*Strengthen the Church Offering*

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

**By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

We will be collecting all month.

2

Giving from Our Hearts

+ Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God, you have made rich and poor, powerful and vulnerable alike in your image. Bless the gifts we have gathered today that we may use them to protect the afflicted and bring greater justice to your world. Amen.**

Second Reading of Scripture

Mark 7:24-37 (*Common English Bible*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

**Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

*“I Will Remember Thee”*

Althouse

Kirk Hancox, soloist

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

**Our Father, who 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.**

+ An Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in**

**accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Holy Communion

(The prepackaged communion cups are filled with grape juice and a wafer.  
Gluten free wafers are packaged separately.)

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, who you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere...

**Holy, holy, holy God of Love and justice, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the Highest. Amen.**

Remembrance

Invocation

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world. Come, Holy Spirit, Amen.

Breaking of The Bread and Pouring of The Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ’s presence and for the spiritual food of Christ’s body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

Closing Music

“Here I Am, Lord”  
Kirk Hancox, soloist

Schutte

Benediction

Postlude

“Recessional”

Saxton

Today’ Call to Worship, Confession Liturgy and Prayer of Dedication was written by the Rev. Dr. Laurel Koepf Taylor, Eden Theological Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri and used with permission from Copyright 2021, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

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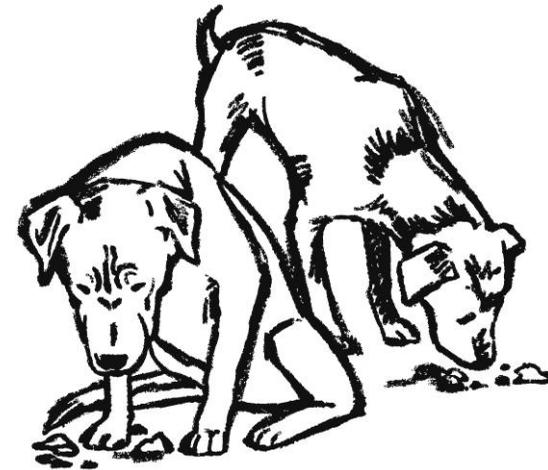
We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

*We care as Christ cares.*



“Even the dogs under  
the table eat the  
children’s crumbs.”

Mark 7:28

+ The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost +  
September 5, 2021 9:00 a.m.  
Zion United Church of Christ  
Union, Missouri