



Welcome to the Celebration!
September 29, 2024 • 10:00am

This week we are continuing our series taking wisdom from the book "On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World" by Rabbi Danya Ruttenburg. Today's theme revolves around what our role is when harm is done by institutions, especially ones that we are a part of. How do we stand up for justice in the system of an organization where responsibility has been diluted out over many people, where rules and policies dictate practices that may be causing harm that we may not realize? And how can institutions make amends when damage has been done?



Mishneh Torah, Repentance 2:1

What is complete *teshuvah*? When a person has the opportunity to commit the same sin, and they possess the ability to do it, but they separate and do not do it because of *teshuvah* and not out of fear or lack of strength.

There are specific steps to repentance work:

1. Owning the harm perpetrated (ideally publicly)
2. Do the work to become the kind of person who doesn't do harm (which requires a ton of inner work)
3. Make restitution for harm done, in whatever way possible
4. THEN apologize for the harm caused in whatever way that will make it as right as possible with the victim
5. When faced with the opportunity to cause similar harm in the future, make a better choice

📺 Our worship service is livestreaming on our YouTube Channel: upcbgm.org/youtube

Join via phone call on Zoom: (+1) 646-558-8656, Meeting ID 865 274 8433

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We Gather as a Community of Faith

OPENING BELL *The bell tolls to center our hearts and minds for worship.*

GATHERING MUSIC “The Lord’s Prayer” Andrea Gilebarto, *soprano*; Rebecca Mebert, *piano*

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done in 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!

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WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

One: Let us come together to worship the Holy One,
who is present in holy action
with us, for us, and through us.

**All: We come, seeking a living faith
in the One who calls us.**

One: The Holy One calls us to do good,
seek justice, and rescue the oppressed.

**All: We come, seeking an active faith,
to move toward holiness
even though it is hard.**

One: Let us follow the Holy One
by faith — a living, active faith.

**All: We come to listen, to pray,
and to follow the way of Jesus,
the living Christ, in all our actions.**

***SONG OF GATHERING** “The Church of Christ in Every Age” (see page 3)


GATHERING PRAYER (*together*)

Merciful God,
you are holy and love justice:
stir the hearts of your people that,
rejoicing in our diversity,
we may repent of the wrongs of the past,
and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son,
our Savior Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.


* = *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

HEARING ASSISTANCE *devices are available; please inquire with one of our technicians
at the back of the sanctuary.*

The Church of Christ in Every Age 623



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live un - til they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

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We Tell and Hear the Word

FIRST LESSON *Amos 5:21–24, CEB*

- ²¹ I hate, I reject your festivals;
I don't enjoy your joyous assemblies.
- ²² If you bring me your entirely burned offerings and gifts of food —
I won't be pleased;
I won't even look at your offerings of well-fed animals.
- ²³ Take away the noise of your songs;
I won't listen to the melody of your harps.
- ²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

FOCUS LESSON *Matthew 7:3–5, CEB*

³ Why do you see the splinter that's in your brother's or sister's eye, but don't notice the log in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother or sister, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' when there's a log in your eye? ⁵ You deceive yourself! First take the log out of your eye, and then you'll see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's or sister's eye.

REFLECTIONS "To Mend the World: When Institutions Cause Harm"

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

We Respond to the Word

***SONG OF RESPONSE** "What Comfort Can Our Worship Bring" (see page 5)

WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE (*together*) "*A New Creed*", *The United Church of Canada*, rev. 1995
We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

What Comfort Can Our Worship Bring 623

MORNING SONG (CONSOLATION) CM

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is primarily in the soprano part. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Gm, Dm, Gm, Eb, Bb in the first system, and F, Dm, Gm, Dm, Gm in the second system. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, with the first line starting on '1' and the second line starting on '2'. The lyrics are: '1 What com-fort can our wor-ship bring on bleak and emp-ty days', '2 What sor-row can we dare to own, what an-ger, loss, and fears?', '3 O God, hear ev-'ry long-ing sigh as voic-es rise and strain, to those who can-not bear to sing when pain is missed in praise? Not just in joy is God made known, but al- so in our tears. and meet us in that hon-est cry where praise is voiced in pain.'

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

Words: Adam M.L. Tice, © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: MORNING SONG (CONSOLATION), attr. Elkanah Kelsay Dare, *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813; arr. *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, alt., © 1992. All rights reserved.
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MINUTE FOR MISSION *PC(USA) Peace & Global Witness Offering*

Sally Hunt

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

You are invited to support the ministry of this congregation through online giving at upcbgm.org/give, or by sending a check to the church office or putting an offering in the plates by the door.

You can contribute to the PC(USA)'s Peace & Global Witness special offering online at pcusa.org/peace-global or text PCUSAPEACE to 41444, or use the Special Offering envelope from your worship guide in one of the plates by the doors, or send a check to the church office marked with "special offering" in the memo line.

OFFERTORY “O Day of Peace”

UPC Choir

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,
till by God’s grace our warring world shall see Christ’s promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small.

As beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord.

The hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(together)*

We bring a wide variety of gifts to the table, O God: gifts that we have received by your grace. Take all that we offer — our money, our talent, our time; our dreams, our hands, our hearts — and use them to make your Spirit’s presence felt in all the world. Amen!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS *(responsive)*

As each petition is concluded, the prayer leader and congregation respond:

One: Lord, in your loving kindness,

All: hear our prayer.

PASTORAL PRAYER

adapted from a prayer by Ann Siddall

Reconciling Christ, bless our efforts to mend our broken world.

Give us the strength to persevere without counting the hurts,
and to find within ourselves the capacity to keep on loving.

Give us the grace to be able to stand in the middle of situations,
and to be a conduit for the deep listening
which can lead to healing and reconciliation.

Help us to conduct ourselves with dignity,
giving and expecting respect, moving from prayer to action,
and from action back again into prayer.

Grant that we may be so grounded in your love,
that our confidence is not shaken if we change our minds,
or begin to see a better way to act.

Reconciling Christ, bless us and bless all who engage
in the sacred work of envisioning new wholeness,
and bringing people and nations together. Amen.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our savior and Lord, who taught us to pray
together saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(together)*

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!

We Go Forth in Gratitude to Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

*SONG OF SENDING "When the Church of Jesus"

When the Church of Jesus



1. When the Church of Je - sus shuts its out - er door,
2. If our hearts are lift - ed where de - vo - tion soars
3. Lest the gifts we of - fer, mon - ey, tal - ents, time,



lest the roar of traf - fic drown the voice of prayer:
high a - bove this hun - gry suf - fering world of ours:
serve to salve our con - science, to our se - cret shame:



may our prayers, Lord, make us ten times more a - ware
lest our hymns should drug us to for - get its needs,
Lord, re - prove, in - spire us by the way you give;



that the world we _____ ban - ish is our Chris - tian care.
forge _____ our Chris - tian wor - ship in - to Chris - tian deeds.
teach _____ us, dy - ing Sav - ior, how true Chris - tians live.

WE BLESS EACH OTHER ON THE WAY (*responsive*)

One: So now we leave this space of worship,
and while so much of the road ahead is uncertain,
the path constantly changing,
we know some things that are as solid and sure
as the ground beneath our feet,
and the sky above our heads.

All: We know God is love.

We know Christ's light endures.

One: We know the Holy Spirit is there,
found in the space between all things,
closer to us than our next breath,
binding us to each other,
until we meet we again.
Go in peace.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

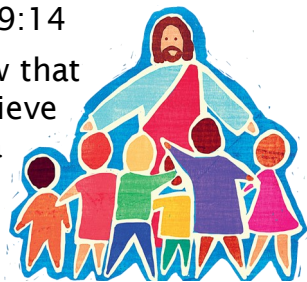
SENDING MUSIC (*together*) "This Is Who We Are" (see insert)

(Please exchange a greeting of peace with those around you as our worship concludes.)

*After the service, you are invited to join us for refreshments
at the front of the sanctuary.*

Children in Worship: "Let the little children come to me..." —Matthew 19:14

We are glad that your children are here today, and we hope that you know that they are welcome and encouraged to be in worship with you. We truly believe that a community of faith is made up of people of ALL ages. There is a PrayGround space with coloring sheets and quiet toys in the front of the sanctuary to use there or can be taken to another pew, if that suits your family's needs.



There is also a nursery space at the end of the hall at the front of the sanctuary that is open for use with a parent or guardian. It has a changing table, a rocking chair, and some toys appropriate for age two and under. There is a speaker in the room so you can listen to the service. Please let us know if you have questions.

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Pastors Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig

Reader Suzie Northrop Raboy ~ **Musicians** Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*;

Rebecca Mebert, *accompanist*; Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*;

Riya Bolander, Andrea Gilebart, Robert Manners, Starletta Noll-Long, and the UPC choir

Technicians Andy Chadwick, Matt Johnson, Scott Kindig, Sara Lieberman, Ken Mebert

This Is Who We Are

Andante

G \flat A \flat B \flat (sus4) B \flat G \flat A \flat B \flat (sus4) B \flat E \flat /G F/A B \flat E \flat (add2)



We are peo-ple of prayer,

7 E \flat (add2)/C F7(sus4) F7 B \flat /D E \flat (sus2) E \flat /G F/A



peo-ple of cour - age, and peo-ple who dare, and We are

10 B \flat E \flat maj7(add9) Cm7 Cm7/F

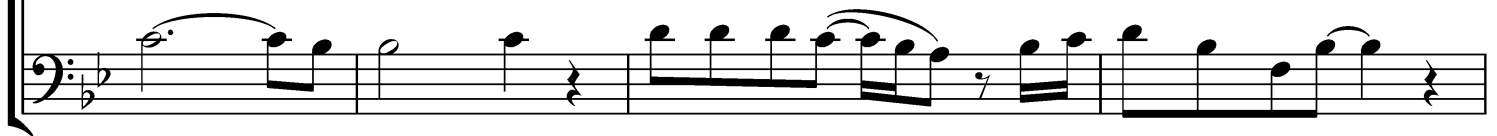


peo-ple u - ni - ted to serve, be-cause we're peo-ple who care, and we're a -

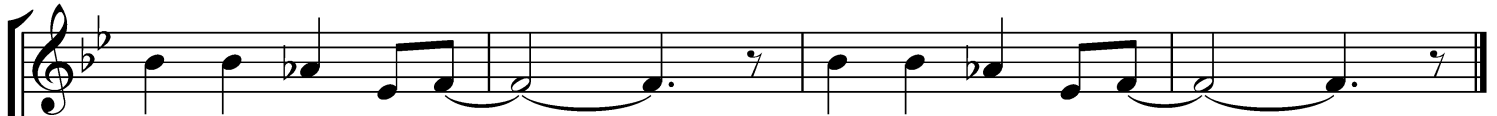
13 F/G E \flat (add2)/A \flat A \flat maj7 Cm7 F7 B \flat /D E \flat (sus2)



live and ris - ing, stir-ring and stirred by the life-breath-ing Word,



17 G \flat A \flat (add2) B \flat (sus4) B \flat G \flat A \flat (add2) B \flat (sus4) B \flat



This is Who We Are This is Who We Are

