



First Reformed United Church of Christ

Where People Discover...
The Love of God...
The Power to Love Others...
The Ability to Love Ourselves.

The Worship of God

August 30, 2020
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

“BOLD” indicates congregational response

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| Prelude | "Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness" [Wayne L. Wold] | Robert Wilson |
| Welcome and Invitation to Worship | | Rev. Elizabeth Horton |
| Hymn | "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" | Ellen Peterson |
| Opening Prayer | | Rev. Horton |

Centering

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| New Testament Reading | Romans 12:9-21 | Brian McKerlie |
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I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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| Prayer of Confession | | Brian McKerlie |
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Gracious and loving God, help us take the words of Paul to heart and to intentionally change our actions from focusing on ourselves and instead focusing on others. These are difficult times, God. And there is nobody, absolutely nobody that is not affected by the pandemic and for the first time, it has literally leveled the playing field across the globe. We know now that life will never be as it was. To many this is at least uncomfortable, at most paralyzing and terrifying. We confess that change is hard. We also confess that we know, deep down that we must change in order for society to survive. These are difficult words but they must be spoken. So, loving God, we confess the following knowing that your love and mercy will help us to change. We confess:

**We prefer to listen to and be centered in ourselves
We prefer those of our own ancestry, those of our own kind
We prefer our privileges
We prefer our stadiums, arenas, and social halls
We prefer our own safety and comfort**

These are difficult words to hear and even harder to change. But that is why we are here. We repent our neglect and refusal to follow your ways and thoughts. We pray that you will have mercy on us, forgive us and free us to know, embrace and live truthfully and wholly in you and in each other, now and always. Guide the way and shine the light and we will follow. These and all things we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

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| Assurance of Forgiveness | | Rev. Horton |
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Passing of the Peace of Christ "May the peace of Christ be with you."

Hymn "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Ellen Peterson

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16: 21-28

Rev. Horton

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Pray using the language or version of your heart.)

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

Sermon

"Building the Church One Rock at a Time: Upon the Rock of Risk"

Responding

Poem

Who Do I Say You Are?
Who do I say you are?
What does my life tell people about your life?
When people learn I'm a Christian, what kind of 'Christ' do they see in me?
Where is the road that follows your footsteps?
Why do we forget that your path involves suffering?
How can I lose my life, and find it in you?

Special Music

"Church Is More than Just a Building"

Ellen Peterson

Church is more than a weekly gathering. Church is faith that's come alive,
Filling hearts and minds with passion, peace and hope that ever abide.
Even as the building's empty, we are touched by the deepest of grace.
When the holy lives within us we are in a holy place.

Invitation to Give and Serve

Rev. Horton

Sending

Benediction

Postlude

"Lead On, O King Eternal"
[Robert Thygerson]

Robert Wilson

Join our **"Fellowship & Prayer Concerns" Zoom Chat [HERE](#)**
after worship from 12-12:30pm and catch up with your church friends!
(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Password: 3n7IX8)

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OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

The Family of Bill Walser, Jasmin Cruz, Margot Everhart, Lisa Price, Patti Lovell, Jeff Hutchens, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crofts, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

Piedmont Crossing:

Mary Berrier, Doris Flynt

OUR FRIENDS:

Buddy Hedrick (Frankie Hedrick's husband), Wayne Beck (Grayson Beck's grandfather), Ben & Anna Lovell and their parents (Jerry and Patti's nephew, his wife), Jonelle Parker (friend of Frank Leonard), Angie Bouchard (Lee and Ellen Bouchard's youngest daughter)

**Indicates newly added. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. To add a name to the prayer list please fill out a prayer request card located on the backs of the pews or call the church office (336-248-2617).*

~AUGUST CELEBRATIONS~

BIRTHDAYS

30th ...Jude Sink

31st ...Kathleen Danze

~SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS~

BIRTHDAYS

2nd ...Dave Fulton

...Joe Kiser

4th ...Henry Crouse

5th ...Kyndell Lovell

ANNIVERSARIES

5th ...Dave & Glenyce Fulton

WEEKLY CALENDAR

August 30:

10:45AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) and Facebook [HERE](#).

12:00PM Join us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 & Password: 3n7IX8)

September 1:

12:00PM 2CFAR: Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).
(Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 & Password: 222495)

7:00PM Adult Book Study:

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism. Join the Meeting [HERE](#).
(Meeting ID: 859 2701 0393 Password: 7x6nQw)

September 6: Holy Communion Sunday

10:45AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) and Facebook [HERE](#).

Gather bread and juice and join us for Holy Communion during our morning worship

12:00PM Join us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 & Password: 3n7IX8)

September 7: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED