



## 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

September 27, 2020  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



2 Sons • oil/canvas • by James B. Janknegt

## Gathering

“**BOLD**” indicates congregational response

Prelude

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”  
[Wayne Kerr]

Robert Wilson

Welcome and Invitation to Worship

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Call to Worship

John Maze & Ben Hale

Jesus said to the fishermen, “Come, follow Me.”

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, “Come, follow Me.”

Jesus said to the tax collectors despised by their neighbors, “Come, follow Me.”

Jesus said to the women working on the streets, “Come, follow Me.”

Jesus said to the poor, the orphans, the widows, and the lost, “You are beloved in the kingdom of God.”

Jesus told the sick and the outcast and the beggars, “Your faith makes you whole and good.”

Jesus tells us that no matter who we are, we are needed.

Different people, different lives, different histories.

No matter who we are, we belong to the kingdom of God.

Come, let us follow Jesus.

Hymn

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

Ellen Peterson

## Centering

New Testament Reading

Philippians 2: 1-13

Brian McKerlie

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Prayer of Confession

Brian McKerlie

Gracious God, we confess that the answers to the questions above make us uncomfortable and yes; we squirm a bit in our seats. We also confess that we need your divine help in living this life of humility. It's easy but we can't seem to do it. With this confession, we open our hearts right now to accept your divine intervention and make a difference this day.

Loving God, forgive us and renew us. To this end and in the name of Jesus, we pray – Show us your ways and rouse us from the easy and comfortable. Highlight what we can change. And change what we cannot. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon and Passing the Peace

Rev. Horton

Special Music

*"Church Is More than Just a Building"*

We're the church in the path we follow, showing care to those in pain.  
In the midst of fear and sorrow, we're the church and here we'll remain.  
Seeking justice, showing kindness, singing praises in all that we do,  
Church is more than just a building. It's our work toward a world made new.

A Blessing of Farewell for Gennie Lou Byerly  
Prayers for the People

Rev. Horton

## Proclaiming

Readers' Theater

Matthew 21:23-32

*"A Question of Authority: Who Do You Think You Are?"*  
Sam West, Bryson Gentry, Christine Plummer

### The Authority of Jesus Questioned

<sup>23</sup> When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

### The Parable of the Two Sons

<sup>28</sup> "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup> He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Sermon

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

## Responding

Hymn

*"Trust and Obey"*  
Members of First Reformed UCC Choir

## Sending

Benediction

Rev. Horton

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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## SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

27<sup>th</sup> ...Rita Lohr  
28<sup>th</sup> ...Elliott Smith  
29<sup>th</sup> ...Marzell Crofts  
30<sup>th</sup> ...Kelly Greathouse

### ANNIVERSARIES

## OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> ...Stacey Potts  
2<sup>nd</sup> ...Adena Wall  
...Eugenia Holste

### ANNIVERSARIES

1<sup>st</sup> ...John & Susie Smith

## OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

### OUR MEMBERS:

John Potts, Charm Ketner, Kelly Greathouse, 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:

M.C. Hinkle (Ben Hale's uncle), Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother), Vernon Powell (Eulene Shepherd's nephew-in-law), Elania & Nora Koontz and Hutson & Grayson East (cousins and friends of Harriette & Clifton Murphy), Buddy Hedrick (Frankie Hedrick's husband), Ben & Anna Lovell and their parents (Jerry and Patti's nephew, his wife), 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).*

We send our prayers with Gennie Lou Byerly as she moves to a UCC Retirement Home in Newton, NC.

Her address and phone number:

500 Shuford Circle Drive

Newton, NC 28658

336-225-2870

(She's not using voicemail yet, so call back if she doesn't answer.)

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### September 27:

- 9:30AM Adult Bible Study: Exodus via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).  
(Meeting ID: 899 1141 8582 Passcode: 793724)
- 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)
- 7:00PM Prayer Vigil: A Call to End Racism outside at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church at 320 South State Street

### September 29:

- 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 Education Meeting with final discussion on "White Frailty."  
(Details on how to join the meeting will be provided prior to the time of the meeting.)

### September 30: PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET DISTRIBUTED FOR REVIEW

- 12:00PM 2CFAR: Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).  
(Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 & Password: 222495)
- 5:30PM GAME NIGHT for Middle School Youth  
(Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please wear your mask.)
- 6:15PM GAME NIGHT for High School Youth  
(Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please wear your mask.)

### October 4:

- 9:30AM Adult Bible Study: Exodus via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).  
(Meeting ID: 899 1141 8582 Passcode: 793724)
- 10:45AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) and Facebook [HERE](#).  
NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING COLLECTION
- 12:00PM Join us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom  
(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 & Password: 3n7IX8)
- 12:30-2:00PM WALK-IN Communion  
Please enter through Memorial Garden, one family unit at a time. (If raining we will enter through the Fellowship Hall entrance.) Enter Chapel and walk the aisle. Receive pre-packaged juice and wafer and partake of Communion at the front of the chapel. Exit through the choir room door and leave building through door at nursery. There will be an IN-CAR option for those who wish to receive communion in this way. A separate Communion Service will air online for those at home.
- 2:00PM Consistory Meeting (Fellowship Hall and via Zoom)

## SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

### Wednesdays in October

- 12:00PM & 7:00PM 30-minute Time of Prayer Sessions in the Sanctuary  
Limit 10 per session. You may reserve your space [HERE](#) or contact the church office.
- October 11: Virtual Congregational Budget Meeting
- October 16-17: Southern Conference and Western North Carolina Association Virtual Meetings
- October 18: Children's Sabbath