

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 22, 2021

United Church of Christ – Rev. Jacoba Koppert

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PRELUDE “*Fairest Lord Jesus*” Karen Mohr

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are urged to lead lives worthy of the life God has called us to live.

We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people.

As we gather to worship God, we ask for God's help:

God help us to be your imitators and to love as Christ has loved us.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION¹

This is the truth - God loves us. However, our unwillingness to change grieves God, our sins break God's heart. In Christ, God forgives us through and through. Let us confess our failures and our faithlessness, trusting in God's promise to make us new.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS¹

We break your heart, God of all the world, by failing to love and offer grace as you do. We choose to spread gossip about our friends and neighbors, when we could speak words of truth and care. We let our fear and anger consume us. Forgive us for the pain we cause you and other people, Grieving God. Help us to make a clean break from those habits which separate us from one another. Open us to the movement of your Spirit within us. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silence personal confession is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

This is the truth - God loves us. Through the Holy Spirit, God works in us, changing our hearts and lives, breathing life and love into us.

We receive God's grace, so we can offer it to others. We are caressed in God's gentleness, so we can hold the broken. We will be quick to forgive, even as God has forgiven us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN “*I Would Be True*”

**I would be true,
for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare,
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.**

**I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live,
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.**

**I would be prayerful
through each busy moment;
I would be constantly in touch with God;
I would be tuned to sense
God's slightest whisper;
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod,
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.**

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Ephesians 4:25-32, 5:1-2

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and

slander, together with all malice,³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

⁵Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

MEDITATION Jacoba Koppert
“Becoming Christians”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN *“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”*
**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart,
In my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, In my heart,
In my heart, In my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart,
In my heart;
Lord, I want to more loving in my heart.
In my heart, In my heart,
In my heart, In my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart,
In my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart,
In my heart, In my heart,
In my heart, In my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *“My Heart Ever Faithful”*
Karen Mohr

Announcements

WELCOME -

We welcome you to our service of worship! We are glad that you have joined us in-person, through the internet or on the radio. We pray that you will experience the love of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN 98.5FM and 1370AM

We would like to thank a faithful listener for this week’s radio broadcast.

Next Sunday, August 29th – Christian Education Meeting following Church Service

**We highly recommend everyone attending services wear a mask
and practice social distancing.**

Paul Vine, Moderator; Barb Petkovsek, Vice Moderator;
Dave Harnisch, Recording Secretary; Bonnie Weyer, Treasurer

