

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 5, 2021
United Church of Christ – Rev. Jacoba Koppert

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PRELUDE *“Break Thou The Bread of Life”*

by William Sherwin arr. Alice Jordan Karen Mohr

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**May God’s grace be with all who
have an undying love
for our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Be strong in the Lord and
in the strength of God’s power.

**May God’s peace be with all who
have an undying love
for our Lord Jesus Christ.**

In faith do everything you can
to stand firm in Lord.

**May God’s grace, the love of Jesus
Christ and power of the Holy Spirit
be among us as we worship God.**

HYMN *“God of Grace and God of Glory”*

#436 vs.1-2 by Harry Emerson Fosdick

**God of Grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power,
crown your ancient church’s story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.**

**From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior’s ways,
from the fears that long have bound us –
free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days, for the living of these days.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

This is the truth - God loves us. However, at
times our relationships with one another 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 FORGIVENESS

**We break your heart, God of all the world, by
failing to love and offer grace as you do. Cure
our warring madness; bend our pride to your
control; shame our reckless, selfish conduct.
Save us from weak resignation to the evils we
deplore; lead us on the search for your
salvation. O God, grant us courage to serve you
whom we adore in the living of these days.**

Silence for personal confession is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.**

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Ephesians 6:10-24

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the
strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor
of God, so that you may be able to stand against
the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not
against enemies of blood and flesh, but against
the rulers, against the authorities, against the
cosmic powers of this present darkness, against
the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly
places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of
God, so that you may be able to withstand on
that evil day, and having done everything, to
stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the

belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak. ²¹So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus will tell you everything. He is a dear brother and a faithful minister in the Lord. ²²I am sending him to you for this very purpose, to let you know how we are, and to encourage your hearts. ²³Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION

Jacoba Koppert

*Standing Firm in the Strength of God,
With Faith, Sharing the Gospel of Peace"*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*(Adapted by Rev. Jacoba Koppert from liturgy
written by Rev. Maren Tirabassi)*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

So often the invitation to Communion invites us to come closer to Jesus.

Today you are reminded of this other truth – Jesus also comes to us.

Remain where you are

wherever and whoever you are,

Communion with God is coming to you.

God is so wildly generous,
there will be enough for all.
Prepare to welcome your Guest.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

THE CONSECRATION

Holy God, bless every morsel near the mouth of any one of your children so that it becomes the strength and hope and holiness each of us needs. Bless the small chalice – and every cup that hold the gift of your salvation– reminding us that we are never to waste your love and we always and in all places drink your healing. Amen.

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.

The Breaking and the Pouring

Sharing of the Elements

You hold the bread of heaven. Honor it.

It is consecrated to perfectly match your need.

Receive it.

We eat it in hope.

You hold the cup of blessing. Honor it.

It is consecrated so you become one of the Saints of God.

Receive this one small sip – deeply.

We drink it in joy.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, we give you thanks that no one is ever to be left out of your table and that we all share your love together. We are in the midst of difficult times for all your children – illness, fire, heat, storm, earthquake, violence – and particular sorrows and griefs and decisions for those we know. We are so grateful that you have brought this Communion to us, so we may surround with its strength and comfort those we know, and search out those we do not know to offer hope and help widely and freely. Amen.

HYMN *“Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face”*

#336 vs. 4-5 by Horatius Bonar

Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear;
The meal, but not your love, is past and gone.
This joyful feast confirms that you are here,
Now and forever, as our shield and sun.

We have no help but yours, nor do we need
another strength than yours to lean upon.
It is enough, O Lord, enough in deed;
Our faith is in your might, your might alone.

THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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 sponsoring this week’s radio broadcast

Beginning September 12th our worship service begins at 10 AM

There will be a blessing of the school children, staff and backpacks during worship.

Sunday School will also begin September 12th 9:15am in person or Zoom

**Sunday, September 19 – Outdoor Service (If weather is inclement the service will be indoors)
A picnic will follow the service – with food provided by Men’s Club, the Mission Committee and
Karlene Wallace. (picnic is tentative)**

Food will be offered to everyone – to eat at the church or at home.

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

Circle of Friends

Jacoba Koppert is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Circle of Friends

Time: Sep 9, 2021 01:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85651671253>

Meeting ID: 856 5167 1253

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,85651671253#

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 856 5167 1253

