

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
October 31, 2021
United Church of Christ – Rev. Jacoba Koppert

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PRELUDE Holly Pisors

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Hear, O people of God: our God is one. Hear the commandments of our God.

**First, love your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind,
and with all your strength**

Hear, O people of God: our God is one.
Recite the commandments to your children and hold them in your hearts.

**Second, love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than
these calls to love. Amen.**

INVOCATION²

O Holy One, Source of all life and Ground of all love, we thank you for your love that never lets us go. Thank you for the privilege of gathering in this space with these your people – our neighbors – to worship you. We do not come merely to open the doors of the church, but we come that our hearts might be opened to you and to one another.

As we worship you today, help us to respond to the call of love – to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves.

May we be transformed from individuals to members of your one body.

We pray for reconciliation, cooperation, and compassion as we strive to break down dividing walls in our nation, congregations and families.

Guide us as families, as a community of faith, and as a nation to follow the path of love. **Amen.**²

**SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS OF
RECONCILIATION**

***GLORIA Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now,

And ever shall be, World without end. Amen, Amen

CHILDREN’S TIME “*Commanded*”

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, ²so that you and your children and your children’s children, may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. ³Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹Jesus

answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³²Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; ³³and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

MEDITATION

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

"What Laws Do We Follow?"

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 #311 "Renew Your Church" vs 2-4 K. Cober

Teach us your word, reveal its truth divine;
On our path let it shine.
Tell of your works, your mighty acts of grace;
From each page show your face.
As you have sent your Christ to save,
in love to triumph o'er the grave,
O let our hearts with love be stirred,
Help us, God, know your word.

Teach us to pray, for you are ever near;
Your still voice let us hear.
Our souls are restless till they rest in you;
This is life, full and true,
Before your presence keep us still
that we may find for us your will
And seek your guidance every day.
Teach us, God, how to pray.

Teach us to love with strength of heart and mind,
Each and all – humankind!
Break down old walls of prejudice and hate;
Leave us not to our fate,
As you have loved and given your life
to end hostility and strife,
Your grace we must be mindful of;
Teach us, God, how to love.

THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Holly Pisors

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²Adapted by Rev. Koppert from "Trusting in the Sour

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

- **10:30 – Tuesday, November 2 – Service & communion served at Neillsville Retirement Community**

- **5:00 - Wednesday, November 3 - Stewardship committee meeting**
6:00 – 7:30 Confirmation

- **9:00 - Friday, November 5 - Constitution committee meeting**
 - **Next Sunday, November 7th - SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK**
All Saints Day observed and Sacrament of Holy Communion

- **Every Wednesday 6:30 PM – Working on Crafts for Holiday Fair at Carla Marty residence**
 - **Anyone interested in tying quilts (no experience needed)- please contact Doris Bakker at 715-743-4215 home, or 715-613-3404 cell**

CHOIR – will begin practice for the Christmas Season the second week of November. We are asking those who live to sing to please call Corrine Armitage (715-743-4747) or just let the church office know & she will contact you.

We are looking forward to having our members back to SING & PRAISE HIS NAME.

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



Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to our 57th Holiday Fair – Saturday, November 13th, 9-1

Gift Boutique, Greeting Cards, Kitchen Cupboard & New to You Treasures

Lunch from 11-1, Carry outs only - call 715-743-2147

chicken salad on a croissant, baked potato soup & dessert

Adults - \$7, Kids under 10 - \$5

MASKS REQUIRED