



*An Open & Affirming, Creation Justice  
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

15 September 2024 – 10:30 AM  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**\*indicates the congregation is invited to stand.  
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

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PRELUDE *Mother Nature's Son* Paul McCartney  
JAZZ ON HIGH • Luke Shepherd, piano & vocals; Zack Olsen, bass; Chris Charman, bass

WELCOME The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

\*GATHERING SONG

**Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (in dialogue with Psalm 19) Suzanne McLean, liturgist

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

**All: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

One: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

**All: The decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;**

One: The ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**All: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold.**

\*HYMN [hymn sheet] *Morning Has Broken* BUNESSAN

\*A PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:  
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.  
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.  
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.  
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.**

\*GREETING OF PEACE

Primer Question For Today  
What is a helpful bit of wisdom that guides you?

SCRIPTURE

Suzanne McLean

Proverbs 1:20-23

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.  
 At the busiest corner, she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:  
 How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?  
 How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?  
 Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you;  
 I will make my words known to you.

Mark 8:27-30, 34-36

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, '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, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

MEDITATION

*Blackbird*

John Lennon/Paul McCartney

SERMON

*Simple Wisdom*

Pastor Dave

RESPONSE

South African Hymn

(Masithi:) <b>Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa</b>	(Sing amen) <b>Amen, we praise your name, O God.</b>
(Masithi:) <b>Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa</b>	(Sing amen) <b>Amen, we praise your name, O God.</b>
<b>Amen, Bawo, Amen, Bawo,</b>	<b>Amen, amen, amen, amen,</b>
<b>Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa.</b>	<b>Amen, we praise your name, O God.</b>

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY

Invitation  
 Offertory Music

[www.PeaceUnited.org/giving](http://www.PeaceUnited.org/giving)  
*The Secret of Life*



James Taylor

\*COVENANT

**We covenant with God and with each other:  
 to walk together in all God's ways as the Holy is revealed to us;  
 to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus' ministry in this church;  
 to celebrate through worship God's amazing gifts of unity and diversity;  
 to take up Christ's mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;  
 to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;  
 for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.**

\*HYMN 402 [hymn sheet]

*De Colores*

DE COLORES

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Big Yellow Taxi*

Joni Mitchell