



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

13 October 2024 – 10:30 AM  
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
**Access and Abilities Sunday**

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

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PRELUDE *Won't You Be My Neighbor* Fred Rogers  
JAZZ ON HIGH • Luke Shepherd, piano & vocals; Chris Charman, bass; Sam Kellerman, drums

WELCOME Lisa Hoelsing and David Pattee

\*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.**

\*INVOCATION

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

SCRIPTURE *Luke 10:25-29* Mira Haslam

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?'

HYMN 541 (seated) *They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"* NEIGHBOR  
First stanza: soloist only

WITNESS Liz DeFrancesco

ANTHEM *People in Your Neighborhood* Jeff Moss

SCRIPTURE *John 9:1-3* Mira Haslam

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.'

WITNESS Cory Ybarra

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lisa Hoelsing

One: We are not perfect but, by God's grace, we are forgiven and empowered. We are called to love our neighbor and to recognize where we have opportunity to love more fully, for the increase of justice and the reign of peace.

**All: God, draw us closer to Access and Love.**

One: Let us rejoice in the continued work of access, celebrating the gifts and abilities of our neighbors, especially those with disabilities. Let us be bold, creative, thoughtful, empathetic, and faithful, rejoicing in the journey of access for all.

**All: God, draw us closer to Access and Love.**

One: In this quiet moment, O God, we pray that you will hear us in our joys and concerns, petitions and thanksgivings for ourselves, our families and communities, and this world, asking that you would guide us in witness and service.

--- silent prayer ---

One: We offer our prayers in trust of your gift to us in Jesus Christ, pioneer and perfecter of our faith, in whose spirit we pray together...

**All: 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.**

OFFERTORY

Invitation

[www.PeaceUnited.org/giving](http://www.PeaceUnited.org/giving)

Offertory Music

*It's You I Like*

Fred Rogers

\*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 539 [hymn sheet]

*Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?*

SERVANT SONG

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*You've Got To Do It!*

Fred Rogers

**Please remember! Our worship next Sunday includes a Blessing of the Beasts,** affirming their dignity as creatures and their special place in our caring for God's creation. All sorts are welcome, well-behaved humans too! If you want us to pray blessing upon an animal who can't come to church with you, bring a photograph instead. Please call ahead if you're bringing an elephant!