

# SOJOURNERS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"A safe place to begin. A safe place to begin again."

June 6, 2021

In the morning at 10:00am

## Second Sunday after Pentecost

That We May Say "Thank You!"



"We are a community of faith called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk in the way of Jesus, by including all peoples in all walks and ways of life, in our life of worship and celebration, nurture and growth, love and service."

~ Covenant of Sojourners Congregation

## Prelude

## Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

### Gathering Music

### “This is the Day”

Steve Brinkley

*words and music by Les Garrett, 1967*

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This is the day (this is the day)  
That our God has made (that our God has made)  
We will rejoice (we will rejoice)  
And be glad in it.

This is the day that our God has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day (this is the day)  
That our God has made.

This is the day Jesus rose again....

This is the day when the Spirit came....

## Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

*[Rev. Patricia Barth (Liturgist); Ben Smith (TwC); Steve Brinkley (Piano and vocalist);  
Ian Little & Rev. Mann- Testing tech arrangements...; Rev. Karen Mann (Joys and  
Concerns).]*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Patricia Barth

Liturgist: Come, let us worship our God with joy and thanksgiving:  
Everything in us says

**All:** *Out loud but muted*

**Thank you!**

At worship in this sacred place and in our Sheltering in spaces we say it  
again:

**Thank you!**

For your love, for your faithfulness;

**Thank you!**

When earth's rulers hear what you have to say, O GOD,  
They'll sing of what you've done:

**How great is the glory of God!**

Finish what you started in us, Dear GOD.

Your love is eternal—stay with us, now, that we may say

**Thank you!**

*Based on Psalm 138, The Message.*

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## Invocation

Liturgist: Let us pray:

**All:** *Out loud, but muted*

**Dear Calling God, we thank you for calling us to this particular time and place where we may worship you in spirit and in truth. Speak to us during this time of worship, direct us in your own way. Make your purposes manifest in and through our lives. We pray in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Call to Confession *(from 1 Samuel 8: 4-11)*

Liturgist: Leadership and governance is on everyone's mind these days. Competing visions of the common good strive for our attention. Like the people of Israel in today's text, we may be tempted to seek rulers whose ways are not the ways of God.

*(a moment of silence)*

## Litany of Confession

Liturgist: When we forget that God's ways lead all to the blessings of justice and mercy:

**All:** *Out loud, but muted*

**Lord have mercy.**

When we forget that God's ways lead all, especially the most vulnerable, to blessings of safety, health, and meaningful work:

**Christ have mercy.**

When we forget that God's ways lead all to the blessings of the shared abundance of God's beloved creation:

**Lord have mercy.**

## Assurance of Pardon *(from Mark 3: 34-35)*

Liturgist: Jesus reminds us: "Who is my mother, and who are my sisters and brothers? All those who do the will of God are my brother and sister and mother." In Christ we are forgiven all our failed efforts at community, and invited afresh to join the family of God, seeking blessings for all.

**All:** *Out loud, but muted*

**Thanks be to God!**

## Collections Cart

*Rev. Patricia Barth*

*This is the time the children usually collect donations of food for the food bank from the congregation. The Food Bank and other organizations still need your donations, perhaps even more now than previously. It may be easier right now to contribute financially to the [Blue Ridge Area Food Bank](#).*

## Time with Children

*Ben Smith*

**Reception of New and Confirmed Covenanting Members**  
**Faith Journey [Read on Confirmation Sunday] - Erin Wallace**  
**Spiritual Journey Statement - Rev. Jeff Carr**

**Renewal of Baptismal Promises (from UCC Book of Worship)**

Pastor: Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism?

**Covenanting Member(s):**

**I(We) do.**

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?

**I(We) do.**

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

**I(We) do.**

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

**I(We) do.**

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

**I(We) do.**

In renewing your baptismal vows, **remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church.**

### **WREATH TYING**

**Reading of the Church Covenant (in unison):**

**All: *Out loud, but muted***

**“We are a community of faith called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk in the way of Jesus, by including all peoples in all walks and ways of life, in our life of worship and celebration, nurture and growth, love and service.”**

**Prayer and Laying on of Hands**

**Contemporary Reading**

*Rev. Patricia Barth*

***Brené Brown***

*“Love is not something we give or get; it is something that we nurture and grow, a connection that can only be cultivated between two people when it exists within each one of them – we can only love others as much as we love ourselves. Shame, blame, disrespect, betrayal, and the withholding of affection damage the roots from which love grows. Love can only survive these injuries if they are acknowledged, healed and rare.”*

**Scripture Lesson: 1 Samuel 8:4–11 (12–15) 16–20 (11:14–15)**

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, 5 and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the LORD, 7 and the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. 8 Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. 9 Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

10 So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. 11 He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; 12 and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. 13 He will take your

daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. 14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. 15 He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. 16 He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. 17 He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. 18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

19 But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, 20 so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

14 “Let’s go to Gilgal,” Samuel told the people, “and renew the monarchy there.” 15 So everyone went to Gilgal, and there at Gilgal they made Saul king in the LORD’s presence. They offered well-being sacrifices in the LORD’s presence, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration there.

## The Sermon/Message

*Pastor Marvin L Morgan*

## HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: As grain that was scattered on the hillside was gathered and made into one loaf, we too, although scattered at tables in our own homes, are bound together around Christ’s table and become one.

As grapes grown in the field are gathered together and pressed into wine, so too are we drawn together and pressed by our times to share a common lot and are transformed into Christ’s self-giving love for all.

Pastor: God be with you.

**All:** *Out loud, but muted*  
**And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to God.**

Pastor: Give thanks to God, Blessed Trinity

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Praise to you Divine Creator. Thank you for the gift of life, the beauty of nature, and your steadfast loving kindness.**

**Praise to you Divine Redeemer. Thank you for sharing our human existence, from birth through death to everlasting life you have shown us a way worth emulating, bringing healing and hope to people most in need around the world.**

**Praise to you Divine Sustainer. Thank you for the vision to see beyond the immediate, a calm in the midst of storm, the strength to build an ever-expanding**

**community and the courage to bring about any change necessary within our lives. Amen.**

### **The Words of Institution/Remembrance also Breaking and Pouring**     *The Pastor*

Jesus shared many meals with his friends during his ministry. But in an upstairs room he would have his last meal with his disciples, because one of his friends would betray him. Knowing his time had come, he took bread and after blessing it he gave it to them saying, "Take. Eat. This is my body broken for you." Later after supper he took a cup and after blessing it he gave it to his Disciples saying, "Drink this. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we open our mouths to proclaim together:

*[And I invite you to say, after me...]*

Pastor:        Christ has died.                    **All:    Christ has died.**

Pastor:        Christ is risen.                    **All:    Christ is risen.**

Pastor:        Christ will come again.        **All:    Christ will come again.**

### **Prayer of Consecration**

**All:**            *Out loud but muted (MLM)*

**Holy God, send your Spirit upon these gifts of grain and grapes that they might be for us the presence of the living Christ and pour out your Spirit upon us so we might be taken, blessed, broken and distributed so others might know the blessings of living in *worldwide communion* with you and one another.**

**Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **The Distribution**

#### **The Blessing**

Pastor:        +May the presence of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, keep and preserve you to everlasting life.

#### **Thanksgiving**

Pastor:        Let us pray.

**All:**            *Out loud, but muted*

**We have been fed, Dear God, by your presence and led by your light. May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen.**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

Pastor:        On this Sabbath Day, let us believe, and give with generosity that God's goodness may be known in the world. This is our opportunity to offer ourselves in gratitude and with generosity, as fruits representing the abiding goodness of

God. [We urge you to visit [our webpage](#) and click on the “**Donate or Pledge Now**” tab, to present your gifts.]

### Dedication Prayer

**All:** *Out loud, but muted*

**Through our giving, Dear God, bring justice and love closer to all, not only in our community but in the world beyond these walls. Strengthen our congregation and the entire United Church of Christ so we may grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.**

### Joys and Concerns

*Rev. Karen Mann*

*It is more important than ever to hold one another in prayer. If you are participating in this service at-home, we invite you to light a candle and remember your fellow Sojourners in prayer. If you are watching live from home, we invite you to leave a comment, on the “Chat” screen, with your joys or concerns, now. Please remember that this is a PUBLIC forum and can be seen by anyone.*

### Pastoral Prayer by Pastor Morgan

#### Closing Hymn

#### “Be Now My Vision”

*Steve Brinkley*

*8<sup>th</sup> century Irish text, translated and adapted by Mary Bryne and Eleanor Hull*

*Melody “Slane,” a traditional Irish melody*

1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart; Nothing surpasses the love you impart:  
You my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Your presence my light.
2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true word; Ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, You are both to me, Now and forever, Your child I will be.
3. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise, You, my inheritance, now and always;  
You and You only are first in my heart, Great God, my treasure, may we never part.
4. Sovereign of heaven, my victory won, May I reach heavens' joys, O bright heaven's  
Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

### Closing Comments by Pastor Morgan

**Benediction** Finish what you started in us, O God for your love is eternal. Go with us, now, into the world, that we may say **Thank you! Amen!**

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Contact Us:

Interim Pastor: Dr. Marvin L. Morgan  
[mlmorg@bellsouth.net](mailto:mlmorg@bellsouth.net)

Faith Formation Director: Kathy Doby  
[kathy@sojourners-ucc.org](mailto:kathy@sojourners-ucc.org)

Church Administrator: Lance Allen  
[churchoffice@sojourners-ucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@sojourners-ucc.org)

Church Office: 434-977-1481  
[www.sojourners-ucc.org](http://www.sojourners-ucc.org)