



# Community UCC

*We're worth our words*  
Welcoming Progressive Community  
*Vibrant Messengers of Hope*



Champaign, Illinois

Worship for Ordinary Time 30B

October 24, 2021

## Thoughts Before Worship:

Today, we will explore a request that two of the disciples make of Jesus. Are they genuinely thinking about possible future scenarios, or are they being selfish, entitled and clueless. What reminders of a life of discipleship need focus as Jesus and those who are following are on their final journey to Jerusalem. As we prepare for worship, think about requests and wants we express in our relationships and their motivations. If you have requests to add to the prayer list (a public document), go to [community-ucc.org/pray](https://community-ucc.org/pray) (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found in the bulletin.

## Gathering Music

Aaron Ames

## Prelude

Aaron Ames

## Welcome

Rev. Bill Lawser

## Call to Worship

Ruth Gilbert

Welcome! There are many places you could be this morning,  
but you have chosen to be here:  
where we learn how to live in God's Kingdom.  
Welcome to this place - full of music, of words, of prayer –  
yet also filled with danger:  
where we encounter a Wisdom we cannot always understand.  
Welcome to God's House, the most dangerous place in town:  
where we talk about and with God, and are reduced to silence  
so we may hear the call to discipleship.  
Let us worship God

## Call to Reconciliation

Ruth Gilbert

We do not pray in order to alleviate our guilt, but to express our gratitude to God. For we know all the things we have said and done that we shouldn't, and all those words we could have spoken, all those actions we could have undertaken, but did not. Despite such lives, God still loves us, surrounding us with mercy and hope, waiting to restore us to new life.

## Prayer of Forgiveness

Ruth Gilbert

Creation's Heart, we look around and see how we fall short in our attempts at faithfulness. We often do things, not because it is what you call us to do, but in hopes of earning points with you. We can become so self-absorbed, we

*We welcome you to our service this morning. Celebrating the diversity of creation, Community United Church welcomes persons of any age, ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or life condition. May the Divine Presence become real to you through this time of worship. We hope you come back!*

**Note:** *Our worship services are live streamed. If you prefer not to have the back of your head seen on the live stream worship please do not sit in the first seven pews on the left side (organ/piano) of the sanctuary.*

\*Everyone is invited to stand in body or in spirit.

cannot see the suffering and struggles of friends, family, strangers. We are so desperate to get to the front of the line, we push aside the very ones you seek to honor.

Forgive us, Holy One. Remind us that the cup we are offered overflows with grace, that the waters of baptism cleanse and make us new, and that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is the One who calls us to service, standing by our side, as we seek to be faithful disciples. Amen

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Ruth Gilbert

The One who poured the foundations of creation fills us with grace and hope. The One who numbered the clouds, tips over rain barrels of living water into our parched souls. The One who writes anthems for the early morning stars, fills us with songs of joy. The One who provides food for all living things, feeds us with mercies which come fresh and new each day. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.

### **Opening Song**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

NCH 498

*Tom Colvin, Arr. Jane Marshall*  
One License Song #111376, One License #A-734456

### **Children's Moment**

Rev. Bill Lawser

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Bill Lawser

Today, you are invited to remain in your space, turn and greet those around you, make eye contact across the room and flash a peace sign, or say "Peace" in the comments on Zoom or Facebook Live broadcast.

### **Prelude to Scripture**

Ruth Gilbert

Whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, let us listen now for the meaning it might hold for us on this day.

### **Sacred Reading from the Gospel**

Mark 10:35-45

<sup>35</sup> James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' <sup>36</sup>And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' <sup>37</sup>And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' <sup>38</sup>But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' <sup>39</sup>They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup>but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

<sup>41</sup> When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. <sup>42</sup>So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup>But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup>For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

### **Postlude to Scripture**

Ruth Gilbert

We conclude this sacred reading with this prayer: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

### **Call to Prayer**

Ruth Gilbert



After the sermon, we will pray together and offer up our joys and concerns. Your prayer requests will be offered aloud. Whether you are sitting here in the sanctuary, or worshipping with us remotely, you are invited to add your joys and concerns to the prayer list: go to [community-ucc.org/pray](https://community-ucc.org/pray) (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found here.

**Anthem**

I Sing Because I'm Happy

Words by Civilla D. Martin, Music by Charles H. Gabriel, Arr. Kenneth Paden, Adapted Rollo Dillworth, Publisher Hal Leonard  
CCS PERFMmusic License #10002047

CUCC Choir

**Message***Join the Service*

Rev. Bill Lawser

**Silent Meditation****Ringing of the Singing Bowl****Call to Offering**

Kristin Johnson

God transforms what we give into a Feast of Hope for the Future – the future of the people in pews, Zoom boxes, and Facebook profiles today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. God also transforms what we give into a Feast of Hope for future generations of Campus Ministry students, Jubilee Café Guests and Volunteers. But that's not the end of the story. Through the open and affirming, just peace, progressive faith values proclaimed and embodied by this community of faith, God will transform your financial gifts into a feast for hope-hungry folks in a future we have yet to even imagine. Will YOU help spread the feast? To share financial gifts big and small, please visit [www.community-ucc.org](http://www.community-ucc.org) and donate. If you are worshipping here in the sanctuary, you may also place offerings in the offering plates as you leave the sanctuary. May God bless the gifts and the givers.

**Mission Moment***Neighbors in Need*

Tom Ward

To give to the special offering we will receive today for the Neighbors in Need a special mission offering for the United Church of Christ, please place those offerings in the globes. You may also use the special offering tab under "donate" on the website to give to Neighbors in Need. May God bless the gifts and the givers.

**Joys and Concerns**

Johnalene Radek

**Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Bill Lawser

**Hymn***Will You Come and Follow Me*

Songbook #31

Words: The Iona Community 1987, Music: Scottish Traditional, arr: The Iona Community 1987  
One License Song #87129, One License #A-734456

**Commissioning of the Community**

Rev. Bill Lawser

**Benediction**

Rev. Bill Lawser

**Postlude**

Aaron Ames



# OUR HOPE IN YOU

This is my commandment, that you love  
one another as I have loved you.

John 15:12

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## Serving Today

**Ministers:** The Community of Community UCC

**Preaching & Presiding:** Rev. Bill Lawser

**Liturgist:** Ruth Gilbert

**Ushers:** Becky Sheridan

**Greeter:** John and Tina Cowsert

**Organist:** Aaron Ames    **Singers:** CUCC Choir, Kathy Lee

**Audio/Video:** David Gerstenecker, Lance Larkin, John Osborne, David Willcox

## **Community United Church of Christ Staff**

**Pastor:**

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser  
leah@community-ucc.org, **Sabbatical - 1/3/2022**

**Guest Sabbatical Pastor**

Rev. Bill Lawser  
pastor@community-ucc.org

**Director of Youth Ministries:**

Jessica Smiley | jessica@community-ucc.org

**Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health:**

Linda Morgan | lindamorgan@sbcglobal.net

**Faith Community Nurse**

Johnalene Radek | johnalene.radek@carle.com

**Parish Associate:**

Rev. Connie Bandy | connie@community-ucc.org

**Director of Music Ministries:**

Kathy Lee | music@community-ucc.org

**Organist:** Aaron Ames, Interim Organist

**Office Manager:**

Carla Rush | info@community-ucc.org

## **Your Ministry Team Leaders**

**Moderator:** Elizabeth Shack\*

**Past Moderator:** Jon Ebel\*

**Incoming Moderator:** Erin Ewoldt\*

**Clerk:** Shane Brownfield\*

**Pastoral Relations Committee:** Cara Finnegan

**Personnel Committee:** Anna Barnes

**Community Building:**

Peg Wade\* and Randy Musser

- **Care Team:** Jeff & Tina Stovall

- **Prayer Shawls:** Elena Kasper

- **Meal Train:** Jennifer Robbennolt

- **Driver's Ministry:** John Osborne

- **Card Ministry:** Peg Wade

- **Healing Music Ministry:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Health and Wellness Team:** Doug Irwin

**Children & Family:** Julie McClure\* and (pending)

**Finance:** Roger Wade\* (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary)

**Identity:** Keri Evans\* and (pending)

**Mission:** Jeanne Ward\* and Kristy Brownfield

**Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP):**

Kyle Mahannah and Grant Robbennolt\*

- **Buildings & Grounds:** Tom Ward and Matthew Hart

- **Contracts & Insurance:** Andrew McClure

**UCC Campus Ministry Liaison:** Ilsa Kantola\*

**Worship:** Chase Skye and Susan Pawlicki\*

- **Sound Coordinator:** Roger Wade

\*denotes Church Life Board Member

## United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

**Director of Campus Ministry:** Reverend Nate Brantingham | nate@ucccampusministry.org

[www.community-ucc.org/campus-ministry](http://www.community-ucc.org/campus-ministry)

## Community United Church of Christ

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