



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

July 24, 2022

Thoughts Before Worship—

“This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor is ever rising. Eternal sunrise; eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on seas and continents and islands, each in its turn, as round the earth rolls.” –John Muir

If you have requests to add to the prayer list (a public document), go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found in the bulletin or there are prayer cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

Gathering Music

Aaron Ames

Welcome

Tom Ward

*Hymn

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

NCH 17 vs 1, 2, 3, 6

St. Francis of Assisi, Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter, Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, Descant. The New Century Hymnal One License Song # 88283, One License #A-734456

Call to Worship

adapted from Psalm 65

Tom Ward, Chase Skye

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy; the meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain; they shout and sing together for joy.

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.*

Note 2: *The congregation responds to the liturgy parts in **BOLD***

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

Opening Prayer

Tom Ward

God with us, you send us into the world as your agents of restoration and change. You speak to us in the stillness of our rest and the chaos of a frenzied world. You guide us in troubling times, and you move us to dance in celebration. We give thanks for your presence among us. Open all points of receptivity within us as we worship you, Holy and Living God. Together, we pray with the words Christ taught us, saying, “Our Creator, who art in heaven....”

Solo

A Simple Song from the Mass

Kathy Lee
Leonard Bernstein

Interlude for Awe

Susan Pawlicki

Throughout worship today, we will have these “Interludes for Awe” – quotes about nature that point us toward glory. The first is from Beth Revis: “The glitter in the sky looks as if I could scoop it all up in my hands and let the stars swirl and touch one another, but they are so distant, so very far apart, that they cannot feel the warmth of each other, even though they are made of burning.”

*Passing of the Peace

Susan Pawlicki

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.

Call to Prayer

Tom Ward



After the sermon, we will 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 (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found here or there are prayer cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

Interlude for Awe

Chase Skye

“We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature—trees, flowers, grass—grow in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence....We need silence to be able to touch souls.” – Mother Teresa

Prelude to Scripture

Tom Ward

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 Psalms

Psalm 8

¹ O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
² Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
⁴ what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.
⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
⁷ all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,

⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹ O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Sacred Reading from the Gospels

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Postlude to Scripture

Tom Ward

Together, let us say:

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

NCH 31

Cecil F. Alexander, Adapt. Martin Shaw
One License Song #94233, One License #A-734456

Message

Wow: daring to be awestruck when everything's oppressive

Silent Meditation

Call to Offering

Tom Ward

God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit. God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that honors each other, to serve others with joy, to share our love and material possessions. Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give. In order to give, please go to www.community-ucc.org and click donate, or if you are worshipping here in the sanctuary, offering may be placed in the plates when you depart. Let us ask for God's blessing over what we offer.

Giver of every good and perfect gift, we marvel at your love and care for us and for all that you have made. Help us by your Holy Spirit to lift our hearts to you, to taste and see that you are good, and to live lives of abundant generosity, full of gratitude and grace, through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Kathy Lee

Interlude for Awe

Chase Skye

"Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads." -- Henry David Thoreau

Morning Prayer

Tom Ward

Commissioning of the Community

Tom Ward

Hymn

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

NCH 89

Geoffrey A. Studdert-Kennedy, Harm. C. Winfred Douglas
CCLI Song #2961242 , CCLI License #3154689

Benediction

Susan Pawlicki

John Muir reminds us, “Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, overcivilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.” Go from this sanctuary this morning into the sanctuary of the world – see it with new eyes. Be awed and remember:

**God loves us more than we could possibly imagine
Jesus came to give us life and give it abundantly, and
The Spirit surrounds us, this day and all days.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Postlude

Aaron Ames

Acknowledgements: Two of the three hymns are congregational requests.

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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Tom Ward

Usher: Peg Wade

Organist: Aaron Ames **Singers:** Kathy Lee

Audio/Video: Marilou Hinrichs, John Osborne, Roger, Wade

Community United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
leah@community-ucc.org

Director of Youth Ministries:

Open

Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health:

Linda Morgan | lindamorgan@sbcglobal.net

Faith Community Nurse

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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: Erin Ewoldt*

Past Moderator: Elizabeth Shack*

Incoming Moderator: Johnalene Radek*

Clerk: Jeff Radek*

Pastoral Relations Committee: Cara Finnegan

Personnel Committee: Anna Barnes

Community Building:

Peg Wade* and Randy Musser

- **Care Team:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Prayer Shawls:** Elena Kasper

- **Meal Train:** Jennifer Robbennolt

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

- **Healing Music Ministry:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Card Ministry:** Peg Wade

- **Visitor's Ministry:** (Open)

- **Health and Wellness Team:** (Open)

- **Hospitality Team:** Randy Musser and Peg Wade*

Children & Family: Julie McClure* and Alison Anders

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

Identity: Keri Evans* and Ramona Oswald

Mission: Jeanne Ward* and Kristy Brownfield

Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP):

(Open) and (Open)

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

- **Contracts & Insurance:** Andrew McClure

UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola*

Worship: Susan Pawlicki* and Tina Cowsert

- **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

Community United Church of Christ

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