



Community UCC

We're worth our words.

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

October 4, 2026

Thoughts before worship:

Today, we connect to the deep, longstanding covenants with God, going back to Moses, who asked his people to love God alone, to love God so much that the law of love was written on their hearts. When we make the same promise to love God alone, we are releasing other claims on our hearts, other temptations and idols. In this stewardship season, let us write God's great love for us on our hearts again, so we might share with others.

- Rev. Amber Neuroth

Prelude

Introit

Bambelela

Welcome, a Word About Worship, and an Opportunity to Check-In

***Call to Worship**

Let us gather within the covenant of Love

which connects us to God and to one another.

Let us gather to remember promises—

God's promises to us and ours to God.

Let us gather to remember the signs of God's love—

The sacraments of communion and baptism, the gift of sacred stories, the symbols of cross and candle.

Let us gather to worship God,

As renewal, as restoration, as response and as challenge. Let us gather to worship God. Amen.

***Invocation**

Together, we pray:

Holy God, we are always seeking your guidance on our journey. We would like it if everything was spelled out clearly, so that we knew what to expect. But that's not the way life works. You remind us in Deuteronomy that faith is an ongoing process, born in covenantal relationship with you. Open our hearts today and remind us of your love for us through all generations, Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

I Come With Joy

NCH 349

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

For the times when we have not loved you and our neighbors with our whole heart,

Holy God, forgive and restore us.

For the times when we have let the appearance of faithfulness stand in for truly faithful effort,

Holy God, heal and move us.

For the times when we have created burdens of injustice and unfairness for others to bear,

Holy God, challenge and renew us. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

God's covenant with us lasts beyond struggle, beyond fault, beyond shame, beyond illness, beyond violence and even beyond death. Remember that love, now. Let it wash over you and bring you peace. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

Call to Prayer

Later in the service, 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 you can fill out a prayer card and hand it to an usher.



Call to Offering

Today's Steward is Alison Anders for Children and Family Ministries

You may place offerings in the plates or give them online at community-ucc.org by clicking "Donate." Our ushers will now come forward to receive our offering.



Offertory

O Lord, Bread of Life

Cantique de Jean Racine,
Gabriel Faure,
arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

O Lord, bread of life, we come to your table and praise your name;

O Lord, we take your cup in thanks and celebration, your name we proclaim,

You set us free, we rest in thee,

O Lord, you died that we may live for all eternity.

O Lord of peace and love, I eat your bread and drink your cup,

Come live in me; O Lord from God above,

Your blood was shed upon the tree, you set me free, I rest in thee,

*O Lord, you died that I may live for all eternity.
Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

Together, we pray:

Covenant God, we have come to your table with gifts—gifts of ourselves, gifts of risk, gifts of newness, and gifts of trust. We thank you for the chance to give, and we pray that we and all whom our gifts bless will never be the same. Amen.

Prelude to Scripture

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 Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy, 6:1-9

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, ²so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. ³Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Response to the Reading

God’s word inspires us and sustains us.

May we build communities of generosity.

God’s word challenges and provokes us.

May we build communities of justice.

God’s word renews and heals us.

May we build communities of the heart.

***Hymn**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

NCH 347

Message

The Centrality of Love

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

From every corner of the earth, Christ calls us to the table.

We come from many peoples, many places, many traditions.

We come with the songs of our ancestors and the prayers of those who came before us.

We come carrying stories of faith, struggle, hope, and joy.

From the villages of Africa and the islands of the Pacific, from the mountains of Asia and the cities of the Americas, from the churches of Europe and the Middle East—

We come as one people, gathered in Christ.

Some come to this table with abundance. Some come longing for daily bread.

Christ welcomes us all.

Some come singing. Some come grieving. Some come with questions. Some come with gratitude.

Christ welcomes us all.

Today, the walls that divide us do not have the final word. Language does not divide us. Geography does not divide us. Culture does not divide us.

At Christ's table, there is room for all.

Come, people of God. Come with open hands and open hearts.

We come to receive. We come to remember. We come to share. We come to be made one.

Community Joys and Concerns

Words of Institution

Sharing the Meal

The bread of life, given for all.

We receive with gratitude.

The cup of blessing, shared for all.

We receive with gratitude.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things have been made ready.

Prayer After Communion

God of every nation and generation, gather us into the great company of your people— those who have gone before us, those who worship beside us, and those we may never meet in this life. Until the day when every people and every nation are gathered into your eternal feast, keep us faithful to one another and to you.

Send us from this table as people of Christ's peace. One body. One Spirit. One Lord. One faith. One hope. One table. Amen.

Commissioning of the Community

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

Postlude

Please join us in the Parlor for the afterparty

Acknowledgements

Liturgy by Rev. Amber Neuroth

Sacred Reading, New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. <https://support.biblegateway.com/hc/en-us>

Worship Licenses

Reprinted with permission under One License #A-73445, All Rights Reserved

Reprinted with permission under CCLI License #3154689, All Rights Reserved

Reprinted with permission under Convergence Music Project Annual Subscription Membership

Video Clips Shown with permission under CVLI License #5505492922, All Rights Reserved

Streamed with permission under CCLI Streaming License #20117321, All Rights Reserved

Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC

Preacher and President: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

President: Pastor Izzy Collazo

Liturgist: Chase Skye

Ushers: Mary Bunyard, Sue Fristoe

Accompanist: Andrey Ivanov **Music Director:** Kathy Lee

Audio/Video: John Osborne, Susan Pawlicki, Roger Wade

Community United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Leah Roberts-Mosser

leah@community-ucc.org

Director of Youth Ministries:

Izzy Collazo | izzy@ucccampusministry.org

Childcare Provider:

Joji Chia

Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health and

Wellness Emeritus:

Linda Morgan | lindamorgan@sbcglobal.net

Faith Community Nurse:

Johnalene Radek | johnalene.radek@carle.com

Minister Emeritus:

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

Director of Music Ministries:

Kathy Lee | music@community-ucc.org

Accompanist:

Andrey Ivanov

Office Manager:

Zoe Hoover | info@community-ucc.org

Your Ministry Team Leaders

Moderator: Beth Hogan*

Past Moderator: Susan Pawlicki*

Incoming Moderator: Bill Gropp*

Clerk: Jeff Radek*

Pastoral Relations Committee: Cara Finnegan

Personnel Committee: Stephen Kolderup

Community Building: Peg Wade*

— **Care Team:** (Coordinator Open)

— **Prayer Shawls:** Elena Kasper

— **Meal Train:** Jennifer Robbenolt

— **Driver's Ministry:** Mary Bunyard

— **Visitor & Healing Music Ministry:** Marilou Hinrichs

— **Card Ministry:** Peg Wade

Health & Wellness Team: Chase Skye, Kelly Tull

Hospitality Team: Rocio Arroyave Jamison & Dennis Jamison

Children & Family: Alison Anders*, Jennifer Johnson

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

Identity: Keri Evans* (open)

Mission: Jeanne Ward* & Patty Gropp

Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP): Sue Fristoe*, Shane Brownfield

Buildings & Grounds: Tom Ward, Marla Elmore

Contracts & Insurance: Andrew McClure

UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilisa Kantola*

Worship: Mara Smith*, Sebastian Major

Sound Coordinator: Roger Wade

*denotes Church Life Board Member

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

Director of Campus Ministry: Izzy Collazo | izzy@ucccampusministry.org

www.community-ucc.org/campus-ministry email: info@ucccampusministry.org

Community United Church of Christ

805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, Illinois, 61820

Phone: (217) 344-5091 | Website: www.community-ucc.org | Email: info@community-ucc.org