



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

October 18, 2026

Thoughts before worship:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled." Jesus offered a bold command. Our hearts feel troubled so often. We come to worship to un-trouble them by following the way of Jesus—the way, the truth, and the life. Let us lay our troubled hearts before God.

- Rev. Amber Neuroth

Prelude

Introit

Bambelela

Traditional South African,

adapted by Mairi Munro & Philip Jakob

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

*Call to Worship

God is calling us

Out of the places we hide

Out of insecurity

Out of shame

Out from under that which silences love and justice.

Come out, people of God!

Though we may be afraid

Though we will be at risk

Though the cross stands as a threat

God calls us to courage!

Our God is a God of resurrection. Of new life after devastation. Of hope in the grip of evil.

And so we dare to proclaim, with pride and faith, our truths:

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**.

Note 3: If you would like to color, draw, or fidget during worship, no matter your age, feel free to pick up a coloring page, blank paper, or play dough, from the white table in the back. You can also use a finger labyrinth, located on the credenza in the back.

*Everyone is invited to rise in body or spirit.

We believe in the power of love.

We believe in solidarity with the suffering.

We believe we are each valuable.

We believe that our togetherness is transformative.

The world is longing for Holy truths that reveal, voices that speak real words of hope.

Come out, people of God!

***Invocation**

Together, let us pray:

God, you have modeled for us time and time again what it looks like to come out. Since the beginning, you have been revealing your true self to us in different forms but we always struggle to understand. In Jesus, you took on the flesh of an infant, made yourself vulnerable, risked everything, all in hopes of deepening your relationship with us. Like our ancestors who responded to your coming out with violence and rejection, we acknowledge we too turn away from your revelation in unexpected people and places today. By your Spirit, make us the kind of community where those who come out as queer or trans, or in any vulnerable way, can find home, family, and embrace. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

God of Queer, Transgressive Spaces

Songbook 51

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of Justice,

God of Compassion,

God of Sacred and Scandalous ways,

We have so much still to learn.

By your grace, we have come to know love more deeply –

its mess, its complexity, its stubborn and tender truths transform us more each day.

Through fires that refine and valleys of death, you have guided us.

You draw us into the heart of Wisdom,

Saving us from the lies of destruction.

Turning us towards hope that liberates.

But still, O God, we struggle to trust in you..

And so, when we are afraid. Or hurt. Or weary...

We betray the very One who brought us thus far.

We confess, we still shame Jesus, when he turns over tables.

We confess, we still condemn Jesus, when he breaks the rules to which we are loyal.

We confess, while Jesus is torn from the arms of his mother by ICE,

killed by his own lovers – so afraid of desiring trans women,

and sitting lonely on the street with no family to welcome them home,
our loyalties are often elsewhere.

Our priorities are not your own.

Search our hearts, O God, and see if there is any fear within us.

Meet us there with your good news that sets the captives free.

Forgive us from the harm we have done as we seek to harm no more.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Beloveds, God does not abandon us to the systems that destroy.

God does not bind us to our regrets.

Or forever hold us to what we once believed.

God says, come and follow!

Know forgiveness and sin no more.

Love abounds. And Justice shall be manifest!

Wherever new life is desired,

may the peace of Christ be welcomed among us.

Thanks be to God who leads us on paths of resurrection.

***Passing the Peace**

Children's Moment

Anthem

I Sing Because I'm Happy
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free.
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.
I'm so happy, yes! I'm so happy, yes, I am!
For God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

Civilla D. Martin,
Charles H. Gabriel,
Kenneth Paden,
Rollo Dillworth

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.



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

John 14:1-6a

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.

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**

Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us

Songbook 68

Message

Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

Silent Meditation

Community Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Call to Offering *Today’s Stewards: Ilsa Kantola & Pastor Izzy Collazo for Campus & Youth Ministry*

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



Offertory

All Belong Here

Lenora Rand, Hannah Rand

Kathy Lee, Elena Negruta (Soloists)

When you’re not sure who you really are

When all you feel is the shape of your scars

And you have more wounds than you can count

Open your eyes, look all around

You aren’t alone, this is your home

Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray,

Loving God, we thank you for all the material gifts that we have, which help us to enjoy our lives – food, housing, healthcare, and more. We recognize our abundance, and we know that others suffer scarcity. We share what we have today in joy, so that they might have their burdens lightened. In gratitude, we share. In gratitude, we know Christ. Amen.

Commissioning of the Community

***Sending Hymn**

We Are a Gentle, Angry People

Holly Near,
arr. Patrick L. Rickey

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

We Will Go Out with Joy

Andrew Donaldson,
Hilary Seraph Donaldson

Postlude

Please join us in the Parlor for the afterparty

Acknowledgements

Liturgy by Rev. Amber Neuroth and Izzy Collazo

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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC

Preachers: Campus Ministry Students

President: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Liturgist: Campus Ministry, Sebastian Major

Ushers: Tom Ward

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

Audio/Video: Marilou Hinrichs, John Osborne, Elizabeth Shack

Community United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor:

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Childcare Provider:

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Accompanist:

Andrey Ivanov

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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

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