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

Champaign, Illinois | Thirty-Fourth in Ordinary Time, Year A | November 22, 2026

Thoughts before worship:
"Jesus is talking about a manner of living here, and it's one that isn't motivated out of the fear of Hell or the hope of heaven, but a life that's driven by an authentic love." - Fr. Rick Morley

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**
O come, let us sing to the Holy One with joy!
The Sovereign One is the rock of our salvation, restoration, and hope!
O come, let us praise the Holy One with thanksgiving!
The depths and the heights belong to our Maker.
O come, let us worship the Holy One who is great!
The Holy One is our God, and we are the flock of God's realm.

***Opening Hymn** *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing* NCH 17 v.1,2,4

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Together, let us pray:

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 in spirit.

God of Justice, Righteousness, and Peace, we seek you and your influence in our lives, communities, and world. Inform our decisions and expand our understanding so that we reflect curiosity and compassion with our neighbors. Remove our uninformed and narrow assumptions and grow our appreciation for human siblings in your kindom. Enliven us again as we recommit to your realm and reign on earth. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness
Community of faith, let us receive God's grace to strive boldly for justice, pursue God's peace, and live in righteousness. May we not take forgiveness as justification for complacency but to liberate us from the bondage of fear as we face the unknown. Let us live the promise of new life collectively as we witness to God's goodness and mercy in hope of a new era of abundance and flourishing for all. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

Interfaith Art Contest Presentation Phoebe Condill, Violet Robberts-Mosser

Anthem *Prayer of Thanksgiving* Edward Kremser, Lavon Baylor

We gather together to ask for God's blessing,
to live in community, seeking God's will.
We come now as sisters and brothers confessing
the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
you call us, O Savior, to life that is new.
You draw us away from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.

All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.
You offer us freedom to follow or stray,
Empowering all by the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.
Amen, amen.

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 the Prophets Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. **12** As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. **13** I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. **14** I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. **15** I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. **16** I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. **21** Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, **22** I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. **24** And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

Sacred Reading from the Gospels Matthew 25:31-46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. **32** All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, **33** and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. **34** Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, **35** for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, **36** I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' **37** Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? **38** And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? **39** And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' **40** And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' **41** Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, **42** for I was hungry and you gave

me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, **43** I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' **44** Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' **45** Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' **46** And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal 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** *Walls Mark Our Boundaries* Songbook 49

Message *Christ the King*

Silent Meditation

Community Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response *The Lord Will Listen* John L. Bell

Call to Offering Patty Gropp – Bandy Center

Let generosity abound! God has given us every good gift, has endowed us with power and authority, and has honored us with responsibility to one another and for all creation. In our giving, we demonstrate our commitment to the kindom, our citizenship in the realm of God, and our trust in the reign of God forever and ever. You may place offerings in the plates or give them online at community-ucc.org/donate. Our ushers will now come forward to receive our offering.

Offertory *Violin Partita No. 2 in D minor, IV: Gigue* J.S. Bach
Maxine Cajavilca, violin

Stewardship Celebration and Prayer of Dedication

Together, let us pray:

Generous God, may these gifts and pledges be magnified for your kindom. We trust that your realm has everything needed. May we share our time, talent, and treasure in a spirit of gratitude, joy, and hope as tangible acts of our faith and belonging. Grant us wisdom and discernment to be good stewards of the resources entrusted into our care for the ministry of the good news. Amen.

Commissioning of the Community

***Sending Hymn** *Come, O Thankful People, Come* NCH 422

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *We Will Go Out With Joy* Andrew Donaldson, Hilary Seraph Donaldson

We will go out with joy in the Spirit, we will go out with God.
We will go out with joy in the Spirit, we will go out with God.
Alleluia! We will go out with joy!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will go out with joy in the Spirit, we will go out with God.

Postlude

Please join us in the Parlor for the afterparty

Acknowledgements

Liturgy by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preacher and Presider: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Jan Hiland
Ushers: Tom Ward
Accompanist: Andrey Ivanov **Music Director:** Kathy Lee
Audio/Video: Elizabeth Shack, Roger Wade, Sean Walker

Community United Church of Christ Staff

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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: Ilsa Kantola*
Worship: Mara Smith*, Sebastian Major
Sound Coordinator: Roger Wade

*denotes Church Life Board Member

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

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