

# The Mount Carmel Congregational Church

*A United Church of Christ*



*Jesus and the Twelve Apostles, Edgardo de Guzman  
(Philippines, c. 2006)*

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Prelude**                   “Come thou Font of Every Blessing”  
*Arr. Robert Lau*

## **Greeting and Announcements**

## **Passing of the Peace of Christ**

### **Call to Worship**

**One:**           As we gather this day, each of us brings something to  
                  worship.

**All:**           **We bring the burdens of our week.**

**One:**           We bring our prayers of hope, and our cries of anguish.

**All:**           **We bring our laughter and our joy.**

**One:**           We bring our voices, our offerings, our questions.

**All:**           **We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be.**

**One:**           We bring all this to each other and to God;

**All:**           **Come, let us worship together.**

**\*Hymn**           “Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped”   NCH #22

## **The Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

*(In Unison)*

**O God who loves us, so often we come to you at a loss—at a loss for the right words, the right deeds, the right feelings. We know all is not right, but we cannot say with certainty what is wrong. There are deep divisions between us and others. There are too many who live in poverty and fear. It feels like there are too many horrific stories and not enough hopeful ones. So we pray to you, our Creator and Redeemer, to make things right, and to make us right with you and each other. Turn us around from that which destroys toward that which heals and brings joy. Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

### First Reading:

Psalm 98

Bev Jurkiewicz

Sing to God a brand-new song

who made a world of wonders!

With a strong arm and a mighty hand,

God set things right.

The Eternal made history with salvation,

and showed the world what God could do.

God remembered to love us, a bonus

to the people of Israel—inexhaustible love.

The whole earth comes to attention.

Look—God’s work of salvation!

Shout your praises to God, everybody!

Let loose and sing! Strike up the band!

Round up an orchestra to play for God,

add on a hundred-voice choir.

Feature trumpets and big trombones,

fill the air with praises to God.

Let the sea and its fish give a round of applause,

with everything living on earth joining in.

Let ocean breakers call out, “Encore!”

and mountains harmonize the finale—

A tribute to God who will set the world right

with the presence and power of love.

God will straighten out the whole world,

God put the world right, and everyone in it.

### \*Hymn

“Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing”

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1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

## The Joys and Concerns of the Parish Family

Please remember the following persons in your prayers: Carol Fitzsimons; Marilyn Bronson; Karl Paulette; Amos Hewitt; Rhonda Pruzinsky; and Gilbert Spencer.

## Moments of Silent Prayer

## Pastoral Prayer

## Call to Offering

**Offertory**                    “Come thou Font of Every Blessing”  
*Arr. Gordon Young*

**\*The Doxology**

*(In Unison)*

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that Love has done,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit—One. Amen.***

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

*(In Unison)*

**God of all, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. With these offerings, we give ourselves; may we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen.**

**Second Reading:**                    John 15: 11-17

“I’ve told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I’m no longer calling you servants because servants don’t understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I’ve named you friends because I’ve let you in on everything I’ve heard from the Father.

“You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you.

“But remember the root command: Love one another.”

**Sermon**

## Special Music

“In This Very Room”

Reverend Milton

*(Ron & Carol Harris)*

### Invitation to Communion

Leader: May God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us offer our God our deepest gratitude.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: It is right to give God thanks and praise, and it is right that we open our hearts to God as we prepare to share this sacred meal:

### Blessing of the Bread and Cup

*(In Unison)*

**God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out, searching for ways to connect us and connect us to one another. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths. We see that love most deeply in the one who first served this meal and who taught us to pray:**

### The Lord's Prayer

*(In Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Sharing the Meal

*(At this time, Deacons will distribute the Elements. Please be advised that the outer cups will be filled with wine, while all remaining cups contain grape juice.)*



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*(In Unison)*

**Thank you, merciful God, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are now sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We promise to feed as we have been fed, to forgive as we have been forgiven, to love as we have been loved, all because you have first loved us. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**                    “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”      NCH #23

## Benediction

## Postlude

“LOBE DEN HERREN”

*Arr. Hams Micheelsen*

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*As a community of faith, gathered in Christ's love,  
we strive to support one another in hearing the Word,  
living the Word, and sharing the Word.*

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you missed the Memorial Concert for Peter Copeland, or would like to view it again, you may do so by visiting the following link: (<https://mccucc.tiny.us/copelandmemorial>).

Our special collection for the UCC, “Strengthen the Church”, will be held on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. For information on the collection, please see the May newsletter.

Our Shirts and Skirts meeting for this month will be held in the parish hall on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. We have scheduled an Indoor Picnic. Please bring your own picnic supper. Paper goods, dessert, beverages, and entertainment will be provided. Please come and join in for an evening of fun and fellowship.

We are always looking for Volunteers for Coffee Hour. If you are interested, please contact Aren in the office, or use the sign-up sheet now located near the main entrance to the Parish House.

Copies of the 2024 Directory are available in the Office. If you would like a digital copy of our Directory, please fill out the following Google Form (<https://mccucc.tiny.us/directory>) and we will send you a copy as soon as possible. If you would like a physical copy, please contact the office and we will set a copy aside for you.

We are always looking for new pictures for the Church website! If you happen to attend a Church event, please feel free to snap a few pictures and send them to us by email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com).

Keep your Ark Banks floating! Please don't forget to keep bringing in your Ark Banks. The monies collected go into a discretionary fund which can be used to help people in need.

# **MAY AND JUNE WORSHIP: A LOOK AHEAD**

*Please join us every Sunday at 10am for service!*

## **May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

**Scripture:** Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5: 9-13

John 17: 6-19

## **May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Pentecost Sunday**

**Scripture:** Acts 2: 1-21

Psalm 104: 24-34

Romans 8: 22-27

John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

## **May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Trinity Sunday**

*First Sunday After Pentecost*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 6: 1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8: 12-17

John 3: 1-17

## **June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

*Second Sunday After Pentecost*

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)

Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Mark 2:23-3:6