# The Mount Carmel Congregational Church

A United Church of Christ



The Lord's Prayer, Unknown. Arabic Calligraphy c. 2022

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### Prelude

"Hymn to Joy" Arr. Thomas Keesecker

#### Greeting

#### Passing of the Peace of Christ

#### Call to Worship

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One:	We have gathered today to worship God together.	
All:	We have gathered to give thanks to God.	
One:	We have come to seek God's guidance and t	o celebrate God's
	strength.	
All:	We remember all the wonderful work God has done.	
One:	We are living proof of the power of God's love.	
All:	Remembering how God continues to seek and save, let	
	us worship together.	
*Hymn	"Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"	NCH #4

#### The Call to Confession

#### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives: that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition too easily. We are too quick to judge and condemn. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. We see ourselves as the center of things far too often. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

#### Words of Assurance

The First Lesson:	Isaiah 55: 6-11	Mark Leach
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Seek the Lord when he can still be found; call him while he is yet near. Let the wicked abandon their ways and the sinful their schemes. Let them return to the Lord so that he may have mercy on them, to our God, because he is generous with forgiveness. My plans aren't your plans, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my plans than your plans. Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and don't return there without watering the earth, making it conceive and yield plants and providing seed to the sower and food to the eater, so is my word that comes from my mouth; it does not return to me empty. Instead, it does what I want and accomplishes what I intend.

# Hymn"O My Soul, Bless Your Creator"NCH #13[Please remain seated for this hymn.]

#### The Second Lesson: Ju

Jude 20-25

But you, dear friends, carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying right at the center of God's love, keeping your arms open and outstretched, ready for the mercy of our Master, Jesus Christ. This is the unending life, the real life!

Go easy on those who hesitate in the faith. Go after those who take the wrong way. Be tender with sinners, but not soft on sin. The sin itself stinks to high heaven.

And now to the One who can keep you on your feet, standing tall in God's bright presence, fresh and celebrating—to our one God, our only Savior, through Jesus Christ, our Master, be glory, majesty, strength, and rule before all time, and now, and to the end of all time.

Sermon	"One Last Word"	Rev. Milton
*Hymn	"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"	[Page 5]



#### The Joys and Concerns of the Parish Family

Altar flowers for this week's service have been given by Sandee Martin in loving memory of her sister, Marianne Pivarnick, who passed away on 8/12/17. Please remember the following persons in your prayers: Sterling Marenholz; Karl Paulette; Carmen McKee; Amos Hewitt; Rhonda Pruzinsky; Gilbert Spencer; Ron Vanacore; and Kathy Willey.

#### Moments of Silent Prayer

**Pastoral Prayer** 

#### The Lord's Prayer (Manny Santiago)

Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation. May your reign be a reality here on earth. May we become more interested in building your kingdom here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above. Let us share our bread with those who hunger. Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness. Help us through the time of temptation and deliver us from all evil. For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth. Amen.

#### Blessing of the Prayer Shawls (Unison Prayer)

(Please join us in this unison prayer for the Blessing of the Prayer Shawls.) God of Hope and Comfort, the circumstances of our lives can often feel cold. During our times of winter, we look for you to warm our hearts. In the long nights of loss and change, you embrace our weary souls. As these shawls wrap around your children, may they feel your warmth and comfort. May they know they are not alone. May they know that you are resting as they rest and journeying as they journey. God of Restoration, bless the hands that have crafted these shawls. Help them to see how they co-create with you as they offer tangible reminder of your love when evening is long and loneliness lurks. As these shawls warm the hearts and bodies of our loved ones, continue to remind us of our deep connection to you and to one another through the loving thread of Christ. Amen.

#### Call to Offering

Offertory	"He's Got the Whole World In His Hands"
	Arr. John Purifoy

#### \*The Doxology

Praise God, the wind that stirs our hearts, Praise God, the one who grants fresh starts, Praise God, the source of each new birth, Praise God who loves all those on earth.

\*Prayer of Dedication

#28
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\*Benediction

Postlude

"For the Beauty of the Earth" Arr. John Carter

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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us after service today for Coffee Hour in the Parlor.

During the summer months of July and August, worship services will take place in the sanctuary at 9:00 AM (this also includes Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>).

### "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"





### **SUMMER WORSHIP: A LOOK AHEAD**

Please join us every Sunday at 9am (10am starting September 10<sup>th</sup>) for service!

# August 20th, 2023

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Scripture: Genesis 45: 1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

# August 27th, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12: 1-8 Matthew 16: 13-20

# September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion, Last Service at 9am Time

Scripture: Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26 Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28

# September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### Service Returns to 10am Time

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost* Scripture: Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20



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