

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

July 31, 2022

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

A Service of the Word



## ***The Rich Fool and the Watchful Servant***

***by Kazakhstan Artist Nelly Bube***

*from Global Christian Worship - <https://globalworship.tumblr.com/>*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

July 31, 2022  
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
A Service of the Word

*"Then Jesus said to them, 'Watch out and guard yourself from all types of greed,  
because one's life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions'"*  
*Luke 12:15 NRSV, Bible Gateway*

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*please stand as you are able*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – *Betty Funk*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our Loving God gathers us from the east and the west, from the north and from the south.

**Many: The Holy One is in our midst. Let us say so!**

One: We cried out to our God in the time of trouble and eased our distress.

**Many: The Holy One is in our midst. God leads us on right paths.**

One: Our Provider satisfies our thirst and meets our needs.

**Many: The Holy One is in our midst. Consider God's steadfast love!**

### \*GATHERING PRAYER

Holy Love, we worship you as your people.  
You tether us to you in righteousness and covenant.

Reveal your face to us.

Let us see you in our midst, in our neighbors, and in ourselves.

Clothe us in love and compassion,  
and continually fashion us as your people  
for you are our God.

Amen.

**\*HYMN - NCH 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

**God of Grace and God of Glory**

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
crown your ancient Church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us  
and assail the Savior's ways,  
from the fears that long have bound us -  
free our hearts for faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our reckless, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
make our broken spirits whole,  
make our broken spirits whole.**

**4 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.**

## A READING OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23

*Though the authorship of the book has been attributed to Solomon, most scholars believe this is a collection of sayings and instructions compiled and shared by a Teacher who uses Solomon's name for clout, for his reputation as a wise king. The writer of Ecclesiastes sees that everything human beings pursue in this lifetime is usually meaningless, like chasing the wind, or a mist that slips through our fingers. People work hard, either for money and possessions, or for wisdom and knowledge, and it all passes after they die. People take no time for rest, not even at night, thinking they must be productive. It is vanity. It is meaningless. It is chasing after things that do not matter and that we cannot grasp.*

**1** 1 The Sayings of the Teacher, son of David ruler in Jerusalem:

2 “Completely illusory!” says the Teacher. “Completely illusory!  
Everything is just an illusion!”

12 I, the Teacher, was ruler of Israel in Jerusalem. 13 I saw it as my duty—aided by Wisdom—to determine all that is accomplished under the sun. What a heavy task God has laid upon us! 14 So now I've seen all the works that have been done under the sun, and let me tell you: Everything is but a mist of air, like chasing the wind.

**2** 18 I have come to abhor all my labor under the sun, the fruits of which I now must pass on to my successor. 19 Will this person be wise or foolish? Regardless, my successor will be in charge of all mighty things I created under the sun. This too is illusory. 20 So I gave over my heart to utter despair over everything for which I had labored under the sun. 21 For I, a person who has worked wisely, skillfully, and successfully, must leave it to someone who has not so much as lifted a finger—another mist of air, another miscarriage of justice. 22 Why do I gain for all my sweat and struggle under the sun? 23 What about the daily struggles, the strain of official duties, the anxiety in the dead of night? This too is illusory.

### A READING FROM THE PSALMS: Psalm 49:1-12 *(Responsively)*

*Psalm 49 is a wisdom psalm. In the first half, verses 1-12, the psalmist speaks to all people of the world, of all economic backgrounds. Wealth can't save anyone, can't buy anyone out of the grave, and both foolish and wise people will die all the same. Though people buy and sell land and name places after them, none of it matters when they die, because the grave becomes their home.*

**49** 1 Hear this, everyone!

Listen, all who live on the earth—

**2 Both women and men,  
rich and poor alike!**

3 My mouth will speak wisdom,  
and my heart will utter knowledge.

**4 I'll sing you a riddle,  
and with my harp I'll explain its meaning:**

5 Why should I be afraid in times of danger,  
or when I'm surrounded by those who lie and deceive?

**6 They trust only in their money,  
and boast of nothing but their great wealth.**

7 Yet even they cannot redeem another person—  
no one can pay God the ransom for someone else,

**8 Because the payment for a life is too great.**

**What they can pay will never be enough**

9 To keep them from the grave,  
to let them live forever.

**10 They see that even the wise die,  
as do the foolish and stupid. They all perish  
and leave their riches to others.**

11 Their graves will be their homes forever;  
there they'll live from one generation to the next,  
even though they once had lands of their own.

**12 Their prosperity cannot keep them from death;  
they'll die just like any animal.**

## **SECOND READING- Colossians 3:1-11**

*The Epistle/Christian Letter reading continues in Colossians. The writer calls for unity in Christ, in behavior and in identity. The writer encourages the believers to set their minds on Christ. The true believer is clothed with a new self, one that lives by loving one another. In this renewal, all are a new creation in Christ. Their old identities were formed to be in rivalry with others, but their new identity in Christ is as a child of God, for Christ is in all.*

**3** 1 Since you've been resurrected with Christ, set your heart on what pertains to higher realms, where Christ is seated at God's right hand. 2 Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things of earth. 3 After all, you died, and now your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 But when Christ—who is your life—is revealed, you too will be revealed with Christ in glory.

5 So put to death everything in you that belongs to your old nature: promiscuity, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as idolatry. 6 These are the sins which provoke God's wrath. 7 Your own conduct was once like this, when these things were your very life. 8 But now you must rid yourselves of them all: anger, rage, malice, slander and abusive language. 9 Stop lying to one another.

What you have done is put aside your old self with its past deeds 10 and put on a new self, one that grows in knowledge as it is formed anew in the image of its Creator. 11 And in that image, there is no Greek or Hebrew; no Jew or Gentile; no barbarian or Scythian; no enslaved or citizen. There is only Christ, who is all in all.

## **GOSPEL READING – Luke 12:13-21**

*Jesus told a parable after he was challenged by a person in the crowd. Someone asked Jesus to tell his brother to divide the family inheritance with him. Jesus responded with the word, “Friend,” followed by a rhetorical question: who appointed Jesus to be judge between them? In response, Jesus told a parable of a wealthy farmer whose land produced more than needed, and even after their storage was full the farmer decided to tear down his barns to build bigger ones. The farmer was satisfied with this plan, telling his soul he’d done well, but that very night God demanded his life. For those who store up wealth for themselves have no wealth in God. The pursuit of wealth and power and notoriety in this world is meaningless and worthless. Excess in this world must be given to those without, not hoarded for one’s self, for that is all one will remember. The person who originally wanted Jesus to tell his brother to divide the family inheritance was more concerned about wealth and power than about the relationship with his brother and the rest of his family. That is what he will always be known for.*

**12** 13 Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our inheritance.”

14 Jesus replied, “Friend, who has set me up as your judge or arbiter?” 15 Then he told the crowd, “Avoid greed in all its forms. Your life isn’t made more secure by what you own—even when you have more than you need.”

16 Jesus then told them a parable in these words: “There was a rich farmer who had a good harvest.

17 “ ‘What will I do?’ the farmer mused. ‘I have no place to store my harvest. 18 I know! I’ll pull down my grain bins and build larger ones. All my grain and goods will go there. 19 Then I’ll say to myself: You have blessings in reserve for many years to come. Relax! Eat, drink and be merry!’

20 “But God said to the farmer, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be required of you. To whom will all your accumulated wealth go?’

21 “This is the way it works with people who accumulate riches for themselves, but are not rich toward God.”

## **CHORAL RESPONSE – 283 NCH – Spirit of the Living God**

**Choir: Keith Konet and Bob Bucklew**  
**Accompanist: Betty Funk**

## **REFLECTION – Be Rich toward God - The Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*PRAYER OF RESPONSE**

**God of Peace, help us to lay down our weapons of war and weapons of power,  
our weapons of apathy and our weapons of harsh words.  
Lead us into your ways, to love and serve one another.  
Help us to find peace by leaving behind the pursuits of wealth and power,  
and help us to dive into wisdom and understanding.  
Guide us in your ways through the reading of scripture:  
the practice of compassion, the pursuit of justice,  
the way of righteousness, and the life of love for one another.  
In the name of Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.**

### **\*HYMN - NCH 448 Take My Life, God, Let It Be**

#### **Take My Life, God, Let It Be**

Author: Francis R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.

Composer: Justin H. Knecht, 1797

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**1 Take my life, God, let it be  
consecrated faithfully.  
Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**2 Take my spirit, let it move  
at the impulse of your love.  
Take my intellect and use  
all its powers as you choose.**

**3 Take my will; your will be done!  
Make your will and mine be one.  
Take my heart, and by your grace  
make of it your dwelling place.**

**4 Take my love and help it grow;  
let my loving overflow.  
Take me now, and help me be  
part of Christ's community.**

### **INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Jesus said, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." (Luke 12:15) The promise of life abundantly invites us

to trust God's provision and abundance of resources for all. We share our gifts from the abundance given to us.

**THE OFFERTORY – *Betty Funk***

**\*PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS**

Loving God, may we demonstrate  
our love through these gifts.  
Bless them magnify them  
so that all creation will  
benefit from your abundance  
and gift of life and love.  
Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER – using "debts" and "debtors"**

Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen



## GOING FORTH

**\*PARTING HYMN - NCH 451    Be Now My Vision    vv.1,2,3,5**

### **Be Now My Vision**

Versifier: Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Translator: Mary E. Byrne, 1905

Source: Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century

Word alterations © 1992 The Pilgrim Press

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.

Composer: David Evans, 1927

Harmonization © 1927 Oxford University Press. From THE REVISED CHURCH HYMNARY, 1927.

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**1 Be now my vision, O God of my heart;  
Nothing surpasses the love you impart -  
You my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**

**2 Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;  
ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me,  
now and forever your child I will be.**

**3 Riches I heed not, nor life's empty praise,  
you my inheritance, now and always;  
You and you only are first in my heart,  
great God, my treasure, may we never part**

**5 Sovereign of heaven, my victory won ,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

### **\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

One: Let us go with God to offer life to those around us.

**Many: We will gather up those who are broken to offer them healing.**

One: Let us go with Jesus to wrap people in hope.

**Many: We will reach out to feed those who are hungry and shelter those who are homeless.**

One: Let us go with the Spirit to love all those in our midst who have been forgotten.

**Many: We will take them in our arms and welcome them to our hearts. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE – Betty Funk**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for July 31, 2022 (Pentecost 8/Trinity 7/Proper 13 Ordinary 18 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted July 25, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (2) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from *"Cords of Love": Service Prayers for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Copyright 2022 Faith INFO Ministry Team, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for July 31st, 2022—Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on July 22, 2022, on her blog, Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ**  
**c/o Keith Konet**  
**1039 Bridlewood Drive**  
**Copley, OH 44321**  
Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

## Season after Pentecost - Ordinary Time

The longest season of the liturgical calendar is filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” **The season - called the Season after Pentecost or Ordinary Time - began with Trinity Sunday and ends with Reign of Christ Sunday (the Sunday before the start of Advent).** If you’re like me, you might hear “ordinary time” as “boring time.” But that’s not the case! The word “ordinary” most likely means “numbered” here (think ordinal numbers), because the Sundays of Ordinary Time are numbered. **In this season we move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world to focusing toward the impact of being in Christ in the world. A life in the unity of the Trinity is one of being shaped and sent daily in the image and in the purpose of Holy Love.** The liturgical color for this season is green. During the Season after Pentecost, we focus on the life of the Church as it grows in the midst of the world.

*“When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it—always.”*  
— Mahatma Gandhi

## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- The families of Ruth Whitfield, 86; Roberta Drury, 32; Aaron Salter, 55; Heyward Patterson, 67; Pearl Young, 77; Geraldine Talley, 62; Celestine Chaney, 65; Katherine Massey, 72; Margus Morrison, 52; and Andre Mackneil, 53 killed last week in a racist-inspired mass shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York.
- The family and friends of John Cheng, 52, killed in a mass shooting at a church reception in Laguna Woods, California on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The families and friends of the 19 children (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders) and two teachers murdered in the massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas: Alexandria Aniyah Rubio, 10; Alithia Ramirez, 10; Amerie Jo Garza, 10; Annabell Guadalupe Rodriguez, 10; Eli-ahana Cruz Torres, 10; Eliana “Ellie” Garcia, 9; Eva Mireles, 44 (fourth grade teacher); Irma Garcia (fourth grade teacher); Jackie Cazares, 10; Jailah Nicole Silguero, 10;

Jayce Luevanos, 10; Jose Flores, 10; Layla Salazar, 10; Makenna Lee Elrod, 10; Maite Rodriguez; Miranda Mathis, 11; Nevaeh Bravo; Rojelio Torres, 10; Tess Marie Mata; Uziyah Garcia, 10; and Xavier Lopez, 10.

- The families and friends of the those killed in the mass shooting at a medical center in Tulsa, Oklahoma on June 1<sup>st</sup>: two doctors, Preston Phillips, 59 and Stephanie Husen, 48; a receptionist, Amanda Glenn, 40; and a visitor/patient, William Love, 73.
- The families and friends of those killed in the shootings at a potluck dinner on June 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama: 84-year-old Walter Rainey, 75-year-old Sarah Yeager and 84-year-old Jane Pounds.
- The family and friends of those killed at the mass shooting at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Highland Park, Illinois: Irina and Kevin McCarthy; Eduardo Uvaldo, 69; Katherine Goldstein, 64; Nicolas Toledo-Zaragoza, 78; Jacquelyn Sundheim, 63; and Stephen Straus, 88.
- **May God be revealed in their stories and the tears of all who mourn. May their memory be a blessing and their life in God's good care last forever.**
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Tonga affected by the eruption of an undersea volcano and tsunami flooding.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 374 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of July 29th, 2022. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.

- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara, and Michael Reed.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet
  - Marcia Leslie (*neighbor and friend – health concerns*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (*fell at home and injured her knee and leg, presently at O'Neill Healthcare, Room 103, 7250 Old Oak Blvd., Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130 – 440.863.5624*)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter
  - Patricia Matheny (prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray)
  - Lee Matsos and family
  - Barbara Rossington (*move to a new senior housing community*)
  - Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
  - The family of Michael O'Brien particularly his wife, Debbie Webb (*following Michael's death last Fall. Our love and sympathy to Debbie and Michael's family*).
  - Beverly Wurm (*recuperating*)

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA  
c/o Heartland Conference UCC  
P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time.**

## **We Welcome Zion's New Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm!**

Beverly began a part-time position with us three weeks ago. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are:

Monday – 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 11am – 4pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

**Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).**