

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 20th, 2023

12th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 12/Trinity 11/Ordinary 20-A)

A Service of the Word



The One with the Crumby Dog

by Ally Barrett

It's the story of the Canaanite (Syro-Phoenician) woman who asks Jesus to heal her daughter (Matthew 15)
posted October 3, 2017 on the website, @reverendally. reverendally.org



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

August 20th, 2023

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Pentecost 12/Trinity 11/Ordinary 20-A

A Service of the Word

“Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.”

-Corrie Ten Boom-

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements receives the

Prelude - Keith Konet

***Call to Worship**

One: O God Embodied, the one made flesh who dwelt among us, help us to arrive this morning with a “yes.” A “yes” to our faith that says our bodies are good and holy, just as and however they are.

All: A “yes” to show up here, even if our minds may be in other places at times.

One: A “yes” to believing enough in you, this community, and our own call to know
This is where we need to be in this moment.

**All: A “yes” to bringing all that comes from and through our hearts to you,
O Heart-maker.**

One: Come, let us bring ourselves to God’s table of plenty,

All: With our inherent worth and dignity to guide us. Selah. Amen.

***Invocation**

Have mercy on us, O God of Healing. We call out to you for ourselves, our community, and our world that has so much suffering. At times we are discouraged to name what we need, by society or family expectations that were uncomfortable with needs. So often we were simply never taught how to hold this part of us with tenderness and boundaries. But your Word invites us in to name what torments us and to receive your love and acceptance. Grant us your grace to take in the strength of your belonging. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 21 God Reigns o'er All the Earth vv. 1, 2, & 4**

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

Author: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

© 1987 Jane Parker Huber from A SINGING FAITH.

Used by permission of Westminster/John Knox Press

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.

Traditional English melody

Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736636. All rights reserved.

**1 God reigns o'er all the earth!
Green hills and valleys low,
the farms and towns in golds and browns
God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth!
Stone banks and spreading plains,
in rainbow hues, reds, yellows, blues –
of streams and country lanes.**

**2 God reigns o'er human life!
Through youth and aging years,
in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth,
in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o'er human life!
Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams,
we see God's reigning will.**

**4 God reigns! Emmanuel!
God with us every day,
in all our past, and to the last,
our comfort and our stay.
God reigns! Emmanuel!
Let praise to Christ be sung!
God's presence here makes all things dear.
Let joyful bells be rung!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

These verses from the Hebrew scriptures are found in Isaiah 56 in a section of the book sometimes referred to as Third Isaiah. In the return from exile in Babylon, the prophet speaks of those from outside Israel who will join together with the outcasts of God's people. Unlike other leaders after the exile, Isaiah speaks of God's extravagant welcome to all people, even those who are not Israelites but are seeking God. The temple will be called a house of prayer for all people who seek God with their heart, and their offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable.

56 1 Thus says YHWH:

“Do what is right! Work for justice.
For my liberation is about to come,
and my justice is about to be revealed.”

6 And the foreigners who join themselves to me,
ministering to me,
loving the name of YHWH and worshiping me—
all who observe the Sabbath and do not profane it,
and cling to my Covenant—

7 these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be acceptable on my altar,
for my house will be called a house of prayer
for all peoples!”*

8 Thus says the Sovereign YHWH,
who gathers the diaspora of Israel:
“There are others I will gather
besides those already gathered.”

Psalm Response: Psalm 67:1-7 (Responsively)

Psalm 67 is a call to worship for all people of the earth, all nations, to praise God. The psalm begins with a prayer of invocation, then moves into the call for nations to rejoice and sing their praise, for God is the one who reigns with equity and guidance. The psalmist reminds the people of what God has provided from the earth, and concludes with a call for God’s continual blessing, and for all people to have reverence for God.

67 1 O God, show us kindness and bless us,
and make your face smile on us!

**2 For then the earth will acknowledge your ways,
and all the nations will know of your power to save.**

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God,
let all the peoples praise you!

**4 Let the nations shout and sing for joy,
for you dispense true justice to the world—
you guide the nations of the earth!**

5 Let the peoples shout and sing for joy;
let all the peoples praise you!

**6 The land has given its harvest:
God, our God, has blessed us.**

**7 May God bless us, and may God be revered
even to the ends of the earth!**

Second Reading: Roman 11: 1-2a, 29-32

The Epistle reading continues the series in Romans with these verses in chapter 11. This selection chooses the beginning and ending of the chapter to summarize the apostle Paul's argument that God has not rejected Israel. Paul himself is Jewish, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God's call to Abraham and Sarah, to Jacob and all his descendants, lasts forever. The receivers of this letter, whether Jewish or Gentile, have received God's mercy, for all people were disobedient to God, but God was merciful, and God's grace extends to everyone.

11 1 I ask, then, has God rejected the chosen people? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, descended from Sarah and Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 No, God has not rejected the chosen people, who were foreknown long ago.

Don't you know what the scriptures say about Elijah—how he complained to God about Israel's behavior?

29 For God's gift and call are irrevocable.

30 Just as you were once disobedient to God and now have received mercy through Israel's disobedience, 31 now they have become disobedient—since God wished to show you mercy—that they too may receive mercy. 32 God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience in order to have mercy on everyone.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28

In the Gospel Reading in Matthew 15, a Canaanite woman began shouting to Jesus for help for her daughter. Jesus's first response was to ignore her. Then his disciples wanted him to send her away, so Jesus's second response was to turn to her, and tell her he was sent only for the lost sheep of Israel. However, the woman persisted and asked for help a second time. Jesus's third response was then to insult her, telling her it wasn't fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs. Her third reply was to tell Jesus that even the dogs eat crumbs from the table. Jesus finally recognized her faith and said her request would be answered as she wished, and her daughter was healed.

15 21 Jesus left there and departed for the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 It happened that a Canaanite woman living in that area came and cried out to Jesus, "Heir to the House of David, have pity on me! My daughter is horribly demon possessed."

23 Jesus gave her no word of response. The disciples came up and repeatedly said to him, "Please get rid of her! She keeps calling after us."

24 Finally Jesus turned to the woman and said, "My mission is only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel."

25 She then prostrated herself before him with the plea, "Help me, Rabbi!"

26 He answered, “But it isn’t right to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

27 “True, Rabbi,” she replied, “but even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.”

28 Jesus then said in reply, “Woman, you have great faith! Your wish will come to pass.” At that very moment her daughter was healed.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella

Reflection – Is the Good News Really Good News for Everyone? - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of Sabbath, help us to slow down from the busy world around us and find our rest in you.

Guide us to set boundaries on our time and attention, so we may focus on you, the close ones we love, and ourselves. May we see your gift of Sabbath as a habit to be cultivated, and the more we practice, the more it will grow.

Help us to unplug and unwind. Remind us that even though there is always kin-dom work to do, justice to participate in, kindness to share, that you are in it for the long haul, and so we must be as well.

Help us to not become burned out, but to burn our brightest after periods of rest. We thank you for the commandment of Sabbath—help us to hold on to it dearly. Amen.

***Hymn – She Came to Jesus (to the tune of NCH 451 - Be Now My Vision)**

She Came to Jesus

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2002

Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009) and Singing the New Testament (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and Christian Reformed Church, Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2008).

www.carolynshymns.com/

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.

Composer: David Evans, 1927

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

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736636. All rights reserved.

**1 She came to Jesus from outside the fold —
Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!
Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see
One who would help her and set her child free.**

**2 Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace,
She knew God's love was not bounded by place.
Jesus, you listened, debated — then healed —
For in her asking, her faith was revealed.**

**3 God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.
You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends:
Those on the outside are welcomed as friends.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed that God's house is "a house of prayer for all peoples." And it is in such a place where offerings are acceptable to God. Here, in this place of extravagant welcome, may our offerings of time, energy, money, resources, skills, hope, and prayer be lifted up to our God. May they be discerned for the good that ripples out beyond our walls and felt by all who enter them. Amen.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Let us give thanks for all that we share, as well as the way that we share. May our gratitude for this community and the Spirit's presence in this space guide us in how to show up in our lives. May we know how to give but also how to receive, how to say, "yes" and when we need to say, "not today." Let us lift up, and take in, the gift of thanksgiving. 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,
forever.
Amen.

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn - NCH 395 - In Christ There Is No East or West**

In Christ There Is No East or West

Author: John Oxenham, 1908; alt.

Author (st. 3): Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987

Stanza 3 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House;

Word adaptations of Sts. 1, 2, and 4 © 1981 Grace Jones Moore

Tune: ST. PETER C.M.

Composer: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736636. All rights reserved.

**1 In Christ there is no East or West,
in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.**

**3 In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,
and neither slave nor free;
For men and women live in God,
and all are kin to me.**

**4 In Christ now meet both East and West,
in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community
throughout the whole wide earth.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now go, to serve as God's people.

All: We will work to remove all that divides us from others.

One: Now go, to share the grace of Jesus.

All: We will love others just as we are loved.

One: Now go, to be the Spirit's community.

All: We will invite everyone to join us in this life of faith and service. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *For the Heart: Service Prayers for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry who serves as the Associate for Advocacy and Leadership Development for the Council of Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Learn more at chsm.org. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 20th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 10th on her blog, Rev-o-lution. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from August 20th, 2023 (Pentecost 12/Trinity 11/Proper 15/Ordinary 20A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 13th 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (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
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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th) /home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm
Wednesday – 10am-2 pm
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1
(Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023)
Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.

We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.

- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 111 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires was attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 449 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 18th, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ARTS IN AUGUST 2023

IN TREMONT'S LINCOLN PARK

bring a blanket or a chair!

AUGUST 5TH 7pm

CLEVELAND PUBLIC THEATRE'S STEP

AUGUST 6TH 4pm

CLEVELAND SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

AUGUST 10TH 7pm

REFLECTIONS DANCE THEATER

MOJUBA DANCE COLLECTIVE

**SHRI KALAA MANDIR - CENTER
FOR INDIAN PERFORMING ARTS**

AUGUST 11TH 7pm

INLET DANCE THEATRE

AUGUST 12TH 7pm

VERB: OHIO CONTEMPORARY BALLET

DANCE RAIN DATE : AUGUST 13TH 7PM

AUGUST 18TH 7pm

THE CHURCH OF STARRY WISDOM

**CREATING LEWIS WITH
EMERGENCE ENSEMBLE**

AUGUST 25TH 7pm

PAPO RUIZ Y LA DULZURA DE LA SALSA

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



cleveland
PUBLIC
theatre

L | A | N | D studio

Stay up to date on our website: experiencetremont.com