



**THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**A Service of the Word**

*July 26, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.*

# **W**elcome to the Storrs Congregational Church, United Church of Christ!

As we say at nearly every worship service, “No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey God welcomes you... and so do we.” We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God’s kingdom. We don’t all look or act alike; God knows we don’t all think alike. We don’t all read the Bible the same way. We come from different religious backgrounds, we bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we worship God together as one.

We do Sunday morning in some pretty traditional ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We gather around the waters of grace and the feast table of Christ, just as Christians have for nearly two thousand years. Some of the songs we sing are ones our grandparents might also have sung in their day. Yet, in our preaching and prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

**Restrooms are available in the Parish House building.** We ask that you especially avoid congregating in hallways or any other spaces *inside* the buildings, as a precaution in this time of COVID-19.

**Thank you for turning off cell phones** and other devices, and also for refraining from flash photography.

**Children, too, are welcome at all services.** It is important for families to worship together. Don’t feel your child must be absolutely quiet or still, for we are glad to have children—and all their wiggles, giggles, and squiggles—as part of our community and worship life! After all... as an old saying goes, “faith is caught, not taught!”

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion:** *All* are welcome, including children, to share in the feast at Christ’s table. Currently, we celebrate Communion during the 10 AM Festival Worship on the first Sunday of each month and certain other holy days.

**The Sacrament of Holy Baptism:** We gladly offer the sign and seal of God’s grace in the waters of baptism, both to children and adults of any age. *For more information, contact the pastor.*

**The language of worship** is rich and diverse, and yet always inadequate to express the fullness of the divine. In our worship life, we strive to use inclusive language for humanity and expansive imagery for the divine, while respecting the poetry and imagery of texts handed down to us from the ages. Honoring our diversity, in those places where we speak or sing together, worshippers may use language with which they are comfortable or familiar.

**The flowers** featured in today’s worship environment are given in celebration of Pam and Dick Roberts’ 50th Wedding Anniversary with appreciation to members and friends who have nourished the family’s faith journey as UConn students in the 1960s and as members since the mid-1970s.

## The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The Holy Spirit is not something that stands by itself, something that we can pray for and have as a thing in itself, it is born from Love and is of Love, all its treasures are of Love, and if we are to believe our Gospels it is received by Love and Love only.”

— Florence Allshorn

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection*

#### Prelude

*Dr. Patricia Snyder, carillon*

#### Greeting

*One:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*Many:* **And also with you.**

#### Call to Worship — *from Psalm 105*

*One:* Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.

Sing to the LORD, sing praises,  
and speak of all God's marvelous works.

Glory in God's holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Remember the marvels God has done,  
the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth.

The LORD is our God,  
whose judgments prevail in all the world,  
who has always been mindful of the covenant,  
the promise made for a thousand generations.

*For today's music, we ask in-person worshippers to meditate on the words and sing along within your hearts, **refraining from singing aloud** as a super-precaution against aerosol virus transmission.*

#### Music — “Spirit, Open My Heart”

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

*REFRAIN:* Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain.*

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. *Refrain.*

May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. *Refrain.*

## Prayer of the Day

*One:* Let us pray.

Holy God, we try to fix and fasten you,  
but you will not be stayed.

You are love in motion:  
always breathing us into being,  
calling us to serve,  
sustaining us in the wilderness.

Come to us as the morning breaks.

Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts  
until we worship with abandon,

for we pray in the name of the Son you sent  
and through the Spirit that gives life. Amen.

## Words of Welcome & News from our Life Together

### WORD

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*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Reading — Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

## Sermon

*The Rev. Matthew Emery*

### RESPONSE

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*We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering*

## Responding with our Gifts

**Give online:** Go to [www.storrscongregation.org](http://www.storrscongregation.org) and click the green "Give now..." button.

**Text:** Text "StorrsCongChurch" to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. "StorrsCongChurch \$100") to access online giving via text message.

### An Offering Thought

*Jesus told them another parable, “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” — Matthew 13:33*

Bread-baking enjoyed renewed popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic, so much so that yeast is in short supply. Thankfully, it takes only a little dab of yeast to leaven an entire loaf of bread. Likewise, a little bit of Jesus in our lives encourages us to pursue freedom and justice for all people.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC — “My Life Flows On in Endless Song” by Robert Lowry

My life flows on in endless song; above earth’s lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

*REFRAIN:* No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? *Refrain.*

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? *Refrain.*

## The Prayers of the People

### SENDING

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*God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world*

### Music — “Amazing Grace”

AMAZING GRACE (NEW BRITAIN)

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
‘tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

## Benediction

***Many thanks to Mark Roy for leading our music today!***  
***Many thanks to Andy McCabe for assisting with sound and video tech today!***

**Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open** for those Zoom attendees who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

**A Note on Giving:** We welcome and encourage your financial generosity in support of the Storrs Congregational Church UCC and our mission to share in God's love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people! Your giving back to God and God's mission through the life of this church is a part of your gratitude towards God and your faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to you.

There are a number of ways you can make a financial contribution during this season of online-only worship services:

- **Mail:** You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office: Storrs Congregational Church UCC, 2 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268.
- **Drop-off:** You can drop off cash, checks, or money orders at the church office during the week.
- **Online Bill Pay:** Most banks and credit unions offer an “online bill pay” function as part of their online account access website. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will take care of printing a check and mailing it to us—you don't even need to find a stamp! There is no cost, either to you or to the church, for using this option! Even better, you can set up your contribution as an “automatic” or “recurring” payment, so that your generosity keeps flowing even when matters slip your mind. Many SCC congregants (including our pastor) already contribute this way... feel free to join them!
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** By using our website giving portal (go to [www.storrsconchurch.org](http://www.storrsconchurch.org) and click the green “Give now...” button), you can have *Realm*, our church management software, make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it *is* optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** By using our website giving portal (go to [www.storrsconchurch.org](http://www.storrsconchurch.org) and click the green “Give now...” button), you can have *Realm*, our church management software, charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it *is* optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) Please note, if using a *credit* card: we as a church do *not* want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that's not good stewardship for any of us! If using a *credit* card, please make sure for your own sake that it is a card for which you pay off the balance each month.

If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).

## Notes and Acknowledgements

### Acknowledgements:

- Cover photo by Robert Eklund, on *unsplash.com*.
- Call to Worship from Psalm 105, as in the ecumenically-shared inclusive language liturgical psalter in *Book of Common Worship*, ©2018 Westminster John Knox Press, originally prepared for *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, ©2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
- Music – “Spirit, Open My Heart”: Words by Ruth Duck, 1994; ©1996 The Pilgrim Press; all rights reserved; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-719182. Music from traditional Irish melody. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #692.
- Prayer of the Day from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long, Year A, vol. 2, ©2014 Westminster John Knox Press.
- Scripture introductions reprinted from *Sundays and Seasons 2020*, ©2019 Augsburg Fortress, Publishers.
- Offering Thought from Rob Blezard, *Stewardship Snippets*, Stewardship of Life Institute.
- Offertory music – “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”: Words and music by Robert Lowry, 1869.
- Music – “Amazing Grace”: Words by John Newton, 1779, and from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790 (final verse). Music from *Columbian Harmony*, 1829.

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**We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community.** We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to *all*. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.

**STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*We share in God's love by growing in faith,  
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.*

<i>Ministers</i>	All of the Congregation
<i>Senior Minister</i>	Rev. Matthew C. Emery – matt@storrscongchurch.org   Ext. 23
<i>Director of Music Ministries</i>	Dr. Patricia Snyder – trisha@storrscongchurch.org   Ext. 26
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<i>Sexton</i>	Antonio Aguilera

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