**The Original Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

**Sunday, August 22nd, 2021 9:30am**

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*With restrictions currently rescinded, masking is optional.*

*Thank you for caring for each other’s well-being.*

Order of Worship

PRELUDE **“What a Wonderful World”** (1967) Thiele & Weiss

*At the last verse, please sing along.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Each day is formed for a blessing.

**People: We worship the Lord of Life.**

Leader: Home and away we sing God’s praise.

**People: Heaven and earth reveal God’s Glory.**

\*OPENING HYMN ***“Shall We Gather at the River?”***

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,

With its crystal tides forever flowing by the throne of God?

[Refrain] Yes! We will gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful, the river;

Gather with the saints at the river, that flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev’ry burden down;

Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING PRAYER

God of the Sojourner, we ask that you welcome us in by your Spirit from all the places we have been. Place our minds at rest from our worries. Place our bodies at rest from our labors. Restore our soul by the still waters of faithfulness. In your presence is joy. In your home is peace. Grant that wherever our day takes us that we always may linger in your House of Love. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER *all versions are welcomed in the Spirit*

**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 and ever. Amen.**

**All Who are able please stand**

(1)

RESPONSIVE READING *from Psalm 139*

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

**People: Where shall I go from your Spirit?**

Leader: Where shall I flee from your presence?

**People: If I ascend to heaven, you are there!**

Leader: If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

**People: If I take the wings of the morning,**

Leader: And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

**People: Even there your hand shall lead me.**

Leader: For you formed my inward parts.

**People: Wonderful are your works.**

Leader: Your eyes saw my unformed substance.

**People: In your book were written all the days formed for me.**

\*ACT OF PRAISE **“Gloria Patri”** (Glory be to the Father)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and forever shall be:**

**World without end. Amen. Amen**.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*We welcome Cora Mae, daughter of Deana and James Pelland, for her Baptism.*

\*CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING *unison*

**Holy God, we thank you for the gift of baptism and the joy of new life. We promise our love, support, and blessing for the newly baptized. Grant to *Cora Mae*, strength for life’s journey, courage in times of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of new life everlasting through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 “We Walk By Faith”

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please the Lord.

SERMON “Home and Away”

\*HYMN ***“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”***

***&***

***“Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound”***

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit’s sign;

With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love’s expression, love’s creation, love indeed!

Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

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 first begun. (2)

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

**People: Christ is in our midst.**

Leader: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO OFFERING & SERVICE

Let us present our gifts to the Lord, the source of all blessing.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise him above ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we dedicate our gifts to your glory. Amen.

\*COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

Home and away the love of God will rise up to meet you there!

\*CLOSING HYMN ***“Morning has Broken”***

Morning has broken like the first morning,

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,

Born of the one light, Eden saw play!

Praise with elation, praise every morning,

God's recreation of the new day!

SPOKEN BENEDICTION

 POSTLUDE **“Imagine”** John Lennon (1940-1980)

*Please, join in singing on the Refrain. - See page 7.*

DISMISSAL

*Please join us for coffee hour refreshments and continued conversation with friends!*

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  (3)

Thank you for being with us in worship this morning!

We are glad to have you join us for a portion of your Sunday morning!

May God bless you with all the gifts of the Spirit!

**THE ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

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**Senior Pastor: Reverend Kenneth C. Landin**

**Music Director/Organist: Dr. Edward Cetto**

**Sextons: Bob & Sandy Cummings Office Administrator: Donna Charbatji**