

Roots of Belonging

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost



~ Welcome Visitors! ~

Guide to the bulletin: An asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal next to your pew chair.

Children: Children are always welcome here. We know youth grow – in the love of God and the love of others – when they have opportunities to worship in community. After the Message for All, children are invited to attend Sunday School, sit by their family in the sanctuary or at the Prayer Ground. There are a variety of quiet activities and fidgets the youth (and adults!) can do available by the sanctuary doors. There is also a Prayer Ground set up at the front of the sanctuary. There are several quiet activities prepared for children. We know many of us need to wiggle a bit to be comfortable. Kids do too!!! Adults are welcome to sit in this area as well! #ChildofGod. You and/or your children are welcome to get up during the service to select something to do.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship¹**

One: Listen for the voice of the Beloved One:
Whispering soft words of comfort.

All: Shouting in defiance of silences that suppress.

One: Singing songs of justice.

All: Declaring truths that transform from within.

One: The Holy has not abandoned us.

All: Divine Wisdom surrounds us.

One: God will bless the fruit of the faithful
and bring hope to all who yearn for freedom.

**All: Let every weary and tattered heart be encouraged,
and the joy of the despairing be renewed.**

*** Invocation**

**Come, Spirit of Christ, and uproot from within us anything that
deadens from within. Wherever fear rules our choices, transform our
minds and make us brave in spirit. Where we have grown cold to the
needs of our neighbors, soften our hearts and fill us with generosity.
Where pain threatens our capacities for connection, surround us with
community to help us shoulder the load. Keep us on the path of
liberation and let nothing lead us astray. Amen.**

Hymn *Help Us Accept Each Other

NCH 388

HEARING THE WORD

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 45:1-15

Special Music

Go Down Moses

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 15:21-28

Message for All

¹ 1. "Enfleshed," Liturgy that Matters, accessed July 27, 2026,
https://enfleshed.com/wp-content/uploads/woocommerce_uploads/2021/03/Aug25-nm85zc.pdf.

Prayer of Jesus

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.

After the Message for All, children are invited to attend Sunday School, sit by their family in the sanctuary or at the Prayer Ground.

Reflection

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

I Love to Tell the Story

NCH 522, vss 1 & 2

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above
Of Jesus' radiant glory, of Jesus' endless love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.**

**I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.**

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song
Will be the old, old story that I have loved so long (chorus)**

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Kris at 608-438-6307. We will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: pastorkris@memorialucc.org and/or pastorpeter@memorialucc.org

Offering: Extravagant Generosity

We respond to God's Word with our giving and gratitude

Offertory

Canticle of the Sun

sung by Kelly Jetzer

***Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.*

*** Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

All: Healing One, we commit to you our offerings with thanks and with awe. Your grace goes before us and makes even the most painful of ruptures potential sites of new life. We pray that whenever we are called to account for harm done, as individuals, the church, or extensions of legacies of violence, we would show up with honesty, repentance, and a fierce commitment to transformation that is lasting and restorative. May it always be so among us. Amen.

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

Song For Going Out *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* NCH 23

***Benediction**

Postlude

Down by the Riverside

Worship Leaders: Jeff Darwin (Music Dir.), Pastor Kris Gorton, and Pastor Peter Morris

Readers: Marty Smith and Terry Hoffman

Usher: Steve Gorton

Media Room: Scott Oebser

Guest Musicians: John and Mary Koeppel

Fellowship: Outreach Committee feat. Just Bakery

Memorial UCC uses photographs and video for social media communication with our members and friends. If someone does not wish to be photographed or in a video, ushers will help them find a seat out of camera view.

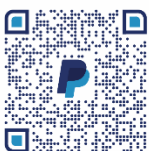
Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042



Hearing Loop and Listening Devices: For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing

loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard of hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.

Bathrooms: There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will gladly help you.



Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities: Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during office hours. Please indicate any special designation in the memo line. You can give securely via PayPal with your credit card, debit card, or direct withdrawals. Visit and click the "giving" link in the upper right-hand corner or scan the QR code here. If you are interested in monthly automatic withdrawals, please email Ulrika Swanson at ulrikaswanson@gmail.com, and she will get you signed up.

Want to Know More About Us? Co-pastors Kris and Peter would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact either of them at pastorkris@memorialucc.org or pastorpeter@memorialucc.org. You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at www.memorialucc.org.

TODAY, Sunday, August 16, at 2 pm, Memorial will host an Ecclesiastical Council for Pastor Peter. This event will allow area UCC siblings the opportunity to meet him, learn some of his story and ask him questions about his ministry and journey that brought him to the United Church of Christ. Everyone from Memorial is invited to attend. You can pick up a copy of the paper Pastor Peter submitted to the Committee on Ministry of the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ in the gathering space outside the sanctuary.

Pastor Peter will lead us in a short time of worship, then give a brief presentation about his faith journey and why he wants to be granted Privilege of Call in the UCC. Following the dialogue, a vote will be taken to grant him Privilege of Call in the United Church of Christ on behalf of the wider church.