

# The Mount Carmel Congregational Church

*A United Church of Christ*



*Garden of Gladness, Matilda Wentzel*

**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

## Prelude

“Amazing Grace”  
*Arranged by: ViolinSolos.com*

Dianne Scott,  
Violin

## Greeting and Announcements

## Passing of the Peace of Christ

## Call to Worship

One: As a new month begins and summer draws to a close, we gather to mark transitions large and small;

**All: As another autumn begins, we are mindful of all that changes in and around us, and all that stays the same.**

One: As a new week unfolds, we begin by worshipping God together, affirming our faith and strengthening the bonds between us.

**All: In the midst of all that changes and swirls around us, we are God’s people gathered to sing and pray, to sink our feet deep in the grounding love of God.**

One: Come, let us worship together.

## \*Hymn

“Praise to the Living God”

NCH #8

## Prayer of Approach

*(In Unison)*

**Creating God, you are the source of nature’s splendor, the force that fuels the beauty and fragrance of delicate flowers, that creates the sweet sound of birdsong. We come to you this morning with delight and gladness, grateful for all of your wonders. We come humbly as well, knowing that our words and actions have are not always creative acts, but also do damage, and we ask forgiveness. As the fields produce their harvest, may our words and actions manifest your love as it continues to grow within us, so that we too may produce a harvest of love, hope, and joy. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading:**

James 1: 17-27

Mark Leach

So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. These gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Source. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. God spoke us to life in truth, so that we would be a kind of firstfruits among creation.

Understand this, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. Human indignation doesn't accomplish God's justice. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the truth, making a salvation-garden of your life.

Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.

But those who catch a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of their eye, and stick with it, are not distracted scatterbrains but a people of action. They will find delight and affirmation in that action.

Anyone who sets themselves up as “religious” by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God is this: Reach out to the homeless, lonely, and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.

**Hymn**

“Just As I Am”

NCH #207

***[Please remain seated for this hymn.]*****Sermon**

## **The Joys and Concerns of the Parish Family**

Please remember the following persons in your prayers: Maria Coffin; Carol Fitzsimons; Marilyn Bronson; Karl Paulette; Amos Hewitt; Rhonda Pruzinsky; and Gilbert Spencer.

## **Moments of Silent Prayer**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*(In Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **Call to Offering**

### **Offertory**

**“Grazioso”**

Leon Fiftal,  
Organ

*Composed by Georg Philipp Telemann  
Arranged by S. Drummond Wolff*

### **\*The Doxology**

*(In Unison)*

***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**

*(In Unison)*

Gracious God, we bring these offerings with hearts full of love and gratitude, inspired by the beauty of your creation and the love that binds us. May they bring hope, peace, and transformation, reflecting your love for all. Help us to be stewards of your grace and love in the world, we pray. Amen.

\*Hymn                    “Help Us Accept Each Other”                    NCH #388

**Benediction**

**Postlude**    “Rigaudon”    Leon Fital,  
*Composed by André Campra*    Organ  
*Arranged by S. Drummond Wolff*

xx

*As a community of faith, gathered in Christ's love,  
we strive to support one another in hearing the Word,  
living the Word, and sharing the Word.*

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Church Office will be closed on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, due to administrative leave.**

**This is a reminder that our regular 10am service time will resume next Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Join us for our Potluck Luncheon, directly following 10am worship on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to sign up to bring a dish, please [ce@mccucc.com](mailto:ce@mccucc.com) or [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com) by Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> (see [page 6](#) for more details).**

**We are excited to welcome the Matsiko World Orphan Choir, who will be joining us in worship for our 10am service on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by a very special performance by the choir. After their performance, we will be holding a luncheon with food catered by Whitney Donut. For more details, check out the September Bell Tree Newsletter!**

**Please join us for the annual Shirts and Skirts Auction, which will place on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm! Admission is \$3 per person, and all are encouraged to bring an item or two for the penny auction. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with Vera DeAngelo or Bev Jurkiewicz by Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>! For more information, please see the September Bell Tree Newsletter!**

**The Annual Blessing of the Animals will be taking place in the Church courtyard on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Please stay tuned to your emails for more details!**

**Our annual Fall Tag and Craft Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm. Per usual, there will be a variety of unique craft and tag tables, delicious food via our Snack Bar, as well as some treat from our Bake Sale. Table spaces are \$20 each and can be reserved by calling Vera DeAngelo at (203) 239-7135.**

**Keep your Ark Banks floating! Please don't forget to keep bringing in your ark banks. The monies collected go into a discretionary fund which can be used to help people in need. We have already used this account on several occasions to help people in need. If you have not picked up a bank yet, they can be found in the narthex or in the entrance to the parish hall.**



# **Potluck**

## **LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Directly Following 10am Service**

**Please join us for a very special Potluck Luncheon  
to Celebrate the Beginning of a New Church Year!**



**If you would like to sign up to bring a cold dish  
or if you just plan on attending,**

**Please contact:**

**Debbie Wooley ([ce@mccucc.com](mailto:ce@mccucc.com))**

**Or**

**Aren Alberico ([office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com))**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024



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