

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 7, 2022

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**PREWORSHIP MUSIC**  
**PRELUDE**

**Mr. Cody Eckenrode, Minister of Music**

**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP & SUNG RESPONSE<sup>1</sup>** (Based on Micah 6:8 and Deuteronomy 6:5)

Minister: What does the Lord require of you?

**All:** *To do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with our God.*

Minister: What does God command of us?

**All:** *To love God with all our heart,  
and all our soul,  
and all our mind,  
and all our strength,  
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.*

Minister: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**All:** *But to presence, and abundance,  
and grace in our struggle.*

Minister: Let us worship the God who believes in us,  
and trusts in us and abides with us.

**All:** *Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,  
but will be beside us every step of the way.*

**HYMN**

*The Voice of God is Calling<sup>2</sup>*

**Hymnal, #387**

**CALL TO CONFESSION<sup>3</sup>**

Minister: We DO hear God's voice calling. We yearn to answer and obey. Even so, we oft ignore God's call on our lives, or in trying to obey, fall short of God's glory. Therefore, let us confess our sin.

**CONFESSION<sup>4</sup>** (Based on Psalm 145)

Minister: Most Holy God,  
we confess to you and to each other  
that we are rarely just in all our ways,  
and far from being kind in all our doings.  
What we want to be and what we actually are,  
are two different things.

**All:** *Our lives are a miss-mash of astuteness and stupidity,  
of moral strength and cowardice,  
of kindness and meanness,  
of openness and cunning,  
of sincere love for you yet also of conniving self-interest.*

Minister: We need both your justice and your kindness  
to convict us of our sins,

<sup>1</sup> Buchakjan-Tweedy, Eliza. Pastor, First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH. She blogs at <http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/>

<sup>2</sup> Public Domain. John Holmes, 1913.

<sup>3</sup> Bair, Rev. Laura C. Starview United Church of Christ. July 26 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Prewer, Bruce. Posted on **Bruce Prewer's Home Page**. <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C62sun32.htm>. Accessed July 26, 2022.

to forgive and cleanse us,  
 and to save us from the power of evil.  
 We need your mercy to wipe away shame and disabling regrets,  
 your light to give us our bearings,  
 and your friendship to delight with us in our happiness  
 and to comfort us in our sorrows.

**All:** *Please grant to us, loving God,  
 the grace of a new beginning  
 and the joy of an enlarged love for you and our neighbors –  
 those with similar beliefs and ideals,  
 but most especially for those who experience life differently.  
 Give us a passion for all your loving ways.  
 Through Christ Jesus our Brother and Redeemer.  
 Amen.*

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>5</sup>**

Minister: Sisters and brothers, Holy Scripture says:  
 “The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
 The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all his works.”  
 In the name of the living God,  
 through the grace of Christ Jesus, the Son,  
 and with the authority of the Spirit,  
 I declare the forgiveness of sins  
 and the life that is eternal!

**All:** *We will extol you, our God and Savior,  
 and glorify your name forever and ever!  
 Every day we will praise you,  
 and glorify your name forever and ever.  
 Amen!*

#### **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

#### **A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING – Genesis 38**

**EPISTLE READING – Romans 2:1-4**

**GOSPEL READING – Matthew 1:1-3a, 16-17**

#### **SERMON**

#### **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**All:** *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.*

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Mr. Cody Eckenrode**

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

**OFFERTORY INVITATION<sup>6</sup>**

Liturgist: God is always with us, not just when everything seems clear and times are good, but also when we struggle with questions and doubt, like Tamar. When we cry out to God, our prayers are heard. When the world cries out to God, we are part of God's answer - offering nourishment to a world that is spiritually hungry. Our gifts this morning are our answer to God's own goodness. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude, praise and prayer.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>7</sup>**

*All: God of Hope, we humbly present these gifts in recognition of the grace that you offer us each and every day. You have endowed us with great bounty. Today, we give a portion of this bounty to you as a generous expression of our gratitude. We are compelled though biblical teaching to share generously in ways that impact the greater mission of the church. We exalt your Holy Name as we participate in this sacrificial act of offering ourselves to you. We pray through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**HYMN***Dwell in Me, O Blessed Spirit*<sup>8</sup>**Hymnal, #464****BENEDICTION<sup>9</sup>**

Minister: As take our leave from this sacred time and space,  
may we remember:  
God always keeps his promises.  
God is unfailingly gracious toward us.

*All: When we stumble, God is there to catch us;  
when we are weighed down by grief or trouble,  
God is there to strengthen and encourage us.*

Minister: So, let us go forth in the knowledge  
that the love and mercy of God goes with us.

*All: Amen.*

**POSTLUDE**


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<sup>6</sup> The United Church of Canada. Offering Invitations. [offering-invitations-and-prayers\\_jan-jun-2022.docx \(live.com\)](#)

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<sup>8</sup> Public Domain. Wigner, John. 1872.

<sup>9</sup> [re:Worship: Benediction: Psalm 145 \(re-worship.blogspot.com\)](#)