

Grace

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Grace United Church of Christ

May 15, 2022

Rev. Joyce Wealand, Minister

Fifth Sunday of Easter

* When a portion of the service is preceded with an *, you are invited to stand in body and/or spirit.

Words printed in bold are an invitation for you to join in the spoken or sung response.

PRELUDE

To God Be the Glory - Doane

***WORDS OF WELCOME**

Leader: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

People: **In this safe space, may God grant us the vision to see the Holy in each other and the Holy in ourselves.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 148)**

Leader: Celebrate our God, from the plains to the mountains!

People: **Celebrate our God, from the waters and hills.**

Leader: Sing to our God who designed creation.

People: **Fill the air with song to the One who painted the world with love.**

Leader: Let us praise our God, the author of grace.
People: **Let us worship our God, the composer of joy.**

***GATHERING PRAYER**

People: **Spirit of Joy-Basking in your presence, we dance in the knowledge that your presence dwells with us. We celebrate your name, your grace, your love in this space with our siblings. We proclaim our excitement that we, together, can glorify your name through sharing your love. May this minute be the start of a new chapter of our love for you and our love for our neighbors. Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

People: **God of Awe and Harmony - We were given the great commandment to love one another the way you, the Christ, the Spirit loves us. And yet, the way we love becomes conditional. What events have distorted our view of Divine Love? How can we return to a simple but radical way of loving? Transform our hearts as we work to understand one another, creating an earth which reflects God's heaven. Amen.**

(Moment of silence and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF BLESSING

A GIFT OF MUSIC Master, Mold Us - DeFrange

SACRED TEXT

Selections from Matthew: 10:16-20, 11:28-30, 28:16-20 NRSV

CENTERING HYMN **Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls**

SACRED TEXT

Acts 16:11-40 NRSV

REFLECTION

***SUNG RESPONSE**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever, Now and evermore.**

***INVITATION TO FAITHFUL SHARING**

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

***DEDICATION OF GIFTS**

**People: Loving God, Holy Vessel of Kindness-
We glorify you by sharing our gifts of
love with this community. We celebrate
your presence by caring for your
creation. May these offerings today
nourish a world craving more love,
peace, justice, and hope. Amen.**

MORNING PRAYER

THE 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.**

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATES

***SENDING HYMN** **Called as Partners in Christ's Service**

***WORDS OF SENDING AND PEACE**

***SENDING RESPONSE** **Sent Forth by God's Blessing**
Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
The fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
To work for God's realm and to answer the call.

POSTLUDE Your Throne, O God - Barstone

Glorify God: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter C was written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, Senior Pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois.



Live stream can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/gracetown/live>

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday:	7pm	Catching Our Spiritual Breath (A time of prayer) on Zoom
Tuesday:	9am-noon	Tuesday Crew meets here to do work on our building and grounds. You are welcome to join in!
	9am-noon	Office Hours
Wednesday:	9am-noon	Office Hours
	10am	Yoga in the Family Activity Center
Friday	9am-noon	Office Hours
Sunday	9:15am	Adult Sunday School in HeBrews Café

WORSHIP LEADERS

Shelley Kennedy is helping lead worship as our liturgist.
Our greeters this morning are **Jerry and Mary Bixler**.

Dave Forman, Mike Pirogowicz, Paul Sodergren, and Jim Lynn serve as our Livestream and Sanctuary Technicians and **Tom DeFrance** serves as musician and accompanist.



Strengthen the Church Offering
June 5

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

Mental Health Sunday

with information from the UCC Mental Health Network



Did you know...?

Mental illnesses are medical conditions.

Research has shown that mental illness has a biological basis. Mental illnesses are brain disorders associated with changes in the brain's structure, chemistry and function, which in turn affects how a person thinks, feels and acts.

One in every four adults is affected by mental illness.

The National Institute of Mental Health reports that one in four adults in the U.S. experiences some kind of mental health disorder in a given year. However, the main burden of illness is concentrated in a much smaller proportion. Approximately 1 in 17 Americans, or about 13.6 million people, live with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder.

Stigma prevents many people from seeking treatment.

Approximately 60 percent of adults and almost one-half of youth ages 8 to 15 with a mental illness received no mental health services in the previous year. In some locations, services simply are not available or are not affordable to the people who need them. In many cases, people avoid treatment because of the fear of stigma.

Treatment works and recovery is possible.

There is no "cure" for mental illness, but with effective treatment (which may include medication, therapy, other services and support), most people experience relief from their symptoms and live productive, fulfilling lives.

Most people with mental illness are not violent.

The most common form of violence by those who have mental illness is violence against themselves. People with serious mental illnesses are far more likely to be victims of violent crime than perpetrators of it.