

Columbia United Church Of Christ



October 22, 2023

“Disabilities Awareness Sunday”



CUCC

Columbia United Church of Christ

CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God’s boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and affirming all God’s children.

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey;
No matter where you are on your faith journey;
No matter your sexual orientation, gender expression, or identity;
No matter your race, culture, ethnicity, nationality, or politics;
No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status, or family structure;
No matter your social, economic, educational, legal, or life circumstances;
You are welcome here!

Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

*Columbia
United Church
Of Christ*



October 22, 2023

10:30 Worship

“Commandments”

*“... Give thanks to God, for God is good;
God’s Steadfast Love endures forever!”*

-Psalm 107:1

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“Arioso”

Steve Jannetti

Johann Sebastian Bach

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 107)

Llona Weiss

Give thanks to God, for God is good;
God’s Steadfast Love endures forever!

**God has redeemed us from our troubles;
God has gathered us together from all directions.**

Let all who have been gathered in God’s name give thanks;
Praising God for God’s wonderful works and Steadfast Love.

**God satisfies the thirsty;
God fills the hungry with good things.**

Let us hear what God will speak;
For God will speak Love to God’s people.

**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
And let your glory be over all the earth!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Gathering Hymn “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

#4

*Opening Prayer

Llona Weiss

God of all mercy, we confess that we have often complicated our lives with things that distract us from you. Our churches have implemented doctrine and dogma that drive people away from your presence. Our practices have often ostracized others. Today, we are reminded that there is only one thing that matters, to love you with all our heart and our neighbor as ourself. Forgive us for the times we forget this simple command. Reorient our lives in your direction so that all we say and all we do may be with this simple truth in mind. In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God's greatest commandment is to love, but even when we fall short of seeing this through, God still loves us and forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response

“Sanctuary”

*Lord, prepare me to be a Sanctuary
Pure and Holy; tried and true!
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you!*

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

May God's Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

Response:

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

(Sung as children return to their seats)

*I have decided to follow Jesus!
I have decided to follow Jesus!
I have decided to follow Jesus!
No turning back, no turning back!*

New Testament Lesson Philippians 4:4-9

Llona Weiss

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he urges the followers of Jesus to focus on rejoicing always in the blessings God has given them and be gentle to all they encounter. He encourages them to focus on prayer and thanksgiving. By these expressions of God's Holy Spirit, all may know the peace of God.

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Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:34-40

Llona Weiss

One of the Sadducees tries to trick Jesus, but his plan backfires when Jesus tells him that the Greatest Commandment is really two: to love God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your soul, and to love your neighbor as yourself. Is this one commandment or two? In truth, you cannot do one without doing the other . . .

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Anthem

“Go Down, Moses”

Celebration Singers

Mark Hayes

Sermon

“The Greatest Commandment”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“God, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

#531

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

The LORD'S Prayer

In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using the address "Creator God" in our unison recitation of The Lord's Prayer. You are certainly welcome to say "Our Father" instead of "Creator," "Trespases" instead of "debts," or "Thy" instead of "Your" if you prefer.

Creator God in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

Pastor Rick

Invitation to the Offering

*As we have been blessed, we give to be blessings in God's World.
To give online text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041*

Offertory

"You Alone"

Steve Jannetti
Hart/arr. Liles

*Prayer of Dedication

Llona Weiss

God of Love, you inspire us to wholeness by your Holy Spirit and teach us the Wisdom of the ages through the ministry of Jesus Christ. As we learn and live and grow, we become more complete, more whole, more holy. In response, we dedicate these offerings to your work in the world. May they be used to bring restoration and wholeness to your children in need all over the world. Amen.

*Benediction

Pastor Rick

*Response

"Let There be Peace on Earth"

*Let there be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with me!
Let there be Peace on Earth; the Peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, Children all are we!
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony!
Let Peace begin with me; let this be the moment now!
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be Peace on Earth; and let it begin with me!*

*Postlude

"Piece Triomphante"

Steve Jannetti
Edward Eicker

PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is deeply grieved by the news coming out of Israel and Gaza. CMEP condemns all acts of violence against civilians that have occurred as fighting has escalated between Hamas and Israel. As of late Saturday, reports indicated that hundreds have been killed and thousands wounded, both Israelis and Palestinians. CMEP mourns with the victims of the violence and their families.

The actions of Hamas and the Israeli response in Gaza in no way advance peace, but rather cause loss of life and harm, grief, and devastation, not only to the individuals affected, but also to the legitimate cause of the Palestinian people in seeking an end to the decades long occupation of the Gaza Strip.

Throughout this year, CMEP and allies have urgently been calling attention to the evolving context, characterized by escalating levels of violence between settlers, soldiers, and Palestinians. The increased nationalism and radicalization within Israeli society have led to more frequent and numerous incidents of hatred, racialized tensions, settler attacks, and incursions onto Muslim and Christian holy sites. These realities have long been ignored by the international community, including the longstanding frustration and desperation of the Palestinian people who seek an end to the oppression of the occupation and Israeli desires for lack of fear and for security. It is time for the United States and the international community to strengthen efforts to de-escalate the systemic violence that has gone on for decades.

CMEP reiterates its consistent call for a negotiated, just, and peaceful resolution to the conflict that advances security and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians. A just peace will only be realized when all parties respect and protect the full human rights of all. In light of the current war, we make the following desperate pleas:

- CMEP calls on all parties to end all acts of violence and aggression and to pursue peaceful and diplomatic resolutions to accomplish desired outcomes.
- CMEP is concerned that Israel's response is disproportionate and urges it not to engage in military actions that devastate Palestinian civilian populations.
- CMEP opposes Israel's practice of collective punishment of all people in Gaza, including the turning off of electricity and water.
- CMEP calls on Hamas to stop all acts of aggression, the targeting of Israeli civilians, and the taking of civilian hostages.
- CMEP calls on the United States government not to act rashly but to prioritize immediate diplomatic measures to bring an end to the violence, including through the United Nations.

CMEP urges the U.S. government to focus on the protection of all civilians, especially the most vulnerable. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) calls upon all Christians and people of faith to pray for peace — not an empty peace devoid of justice, equality, and hope for all people, but a deep, lasting, and just peace that addresses core systemic issues of the conflict, from Palestinian needs for self-determination and freedom to Israel's needs for safety and security.

Columbia United Church of Christ

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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Llona Weiss

Ushers: Christine Staelens

Greeters: Melba Shaffer

Technology: Doug & Judi Privitt

Hospitality: Mary Lorber

Council Stewards: Mary Lorber

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lloyd Mickelson

Ushers: Pat Forward & Phillip Neale

Greeters: Anne Heine

Technology: Brent Marcks & Dominick Lee

Hospitality: Pat Forward & Tricia Price

Council Stewards: Pat Forward & Tricia Price



Online giving

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NURSERY CARE is available for children in kindergarten and younger in room #201 in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

NEEDED - CLEAN PLASTIC GALLON MILK JUGS

Mobility Worldwide uses CLEAN plastic gallon milk jugs to pack their mobility carts for shipping. After delivery, people in developing countries then use the jugs to carry water. The jugs cannot be crushed, they must still have the lids, and they must be **VERY, VERY CLEAN**. There will be a container to collect these in the coat room through the end of October.

FIFTH SUNDAY FOOD BANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday, we will collect for the Food Bank as we do every 5th Sunday. The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri provides food for as many as 100,000 people across 32 counties EVERY MONTH. Our fifth Sunday collections go a long way to addressing food insecurity issues for many!

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET/VISION MEETING

Our mandated Congregational Budget/Visioning meeting will be November 12, 2023, right after worship! We will discuss the proposed 2024 Budget and seek congregational approval and also go over the new 5-year plan for this congregation, articulated by the Vision Team. This is the start of something big for CUCC! Don't miss out! (Copies of the proposed 2024 budget were emailed to the congregation last week; hard copies are available in the gathering area.)

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	10/22	<i>Sunday School Fall Party</i>	
		Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Lunch & Learn	12:00 p.m.
Mon	10/23	Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Tue	10/24	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Serving at Food Bank	5:30 p.m.
Wed	10/25	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers Rehearsal	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Thu	10/26	Clergy Personnel Committee Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Sat	10/28	Columbia Orthopedic Trick or Treat	
Sun	10/29	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team	12:00 p.m.

The United Church of Christ:

"United in Christ's Love, A Just World for All"

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

The People of Israel/Palestine . . . targeted by violent attacks this week

Sharon Crousore . . . Recovering from eye surgery

Don Privitt . . . Recovering from hip replacement

Linda Evans . . . anticipating knee replacement surgery 11/1

Health Issues:

Ed Kaiser, Cliff Beckman, John Adams

Neal Stumbo (Jean Strothmann's nephew)

Terry & Mike Freeman (friends of the Remeikas)

Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece)

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend

Sheila . . . challenges in life and faith

The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Care Facilities:

Bea Gordon, Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Helen Graves, Don Privitt

Pregnancies in our Church Family:

Kurt & Emmalee Heine

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden, Jeffrey Sanderson,
James Walker (Don Helmreich's nephew)

CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:

Welcoming all God's Children;

Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth;

Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;

Building a supportive church family;

Transforming both the congregation and community

through service and outreach



If you try to fit God into your life, You will never have time for God.

If you try to fit your life into God, You will always have time for what matters.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

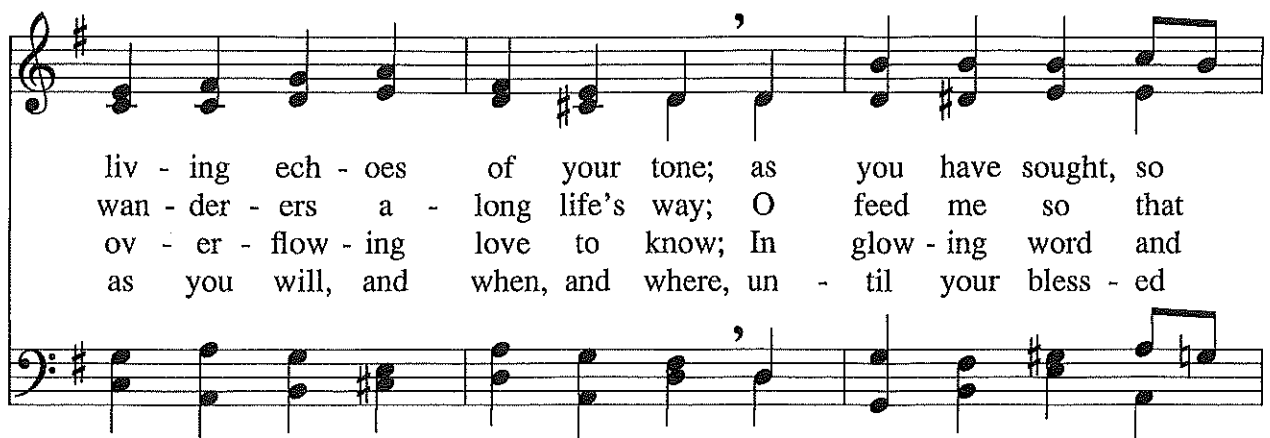
Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846


God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.


1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.

Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
 Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872