TOGETHERNESS

Thank you for worshiping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

For Children: Please feel free to attend services with your children. For the safety of the children, staff and volunteers ERUCC will not be providing childcare during services until further notice. Your children are welcome to bring their own quiet activities, no materials will be provided. Please take ALL personal items with you after the service.

We have removed all items from the pew racks for your safety. Music selections will be provided within this bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshiping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, Thank you.

We ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org .

Donate online by scanning this code:
or you may use our new texting donation system. Send a donation amount to 301-804-2933 . You will receive a text back within minutes with a link. Click the secure link and provide your method of payment and a receipt will be sent to you! Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.

Thank you.

EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH
United Church of Christ
- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

October 18, 2020 Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost 10:30 a.m.

*All who are able may stand. **Bold** print indicates responses by all
Hymns are printed at the end of the bulletin

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Here we are God, with our bits of faith and our pieces of hope.
Here we are God, in our giving and taking moods.
God, will you be here with us as we talk, dream, listen, sing, and pray?
God, will you come and join us?
Will you hold and comfort, push and poke us,
speak to us, feed us?
Here we are God,
in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***Opening Prayer**

Ah, God of every moment and every day,
you are more real to us than our breathing,
more constant than our heartbeat,
more present to us than our senses,
yet more mysterious than we can comprehend.
Dare we ask that your presence be known among us?
In justice, fairness and goodness, and where wrongs are put right
we know you are near.
Love and gentleness, kindness and courage
imprint your image on every part of life,
and we know you are near.
We praise you. We listen for you.
We attend to your pulse in the whole of life. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* *No. 1*
See back of bulletin

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

(An ancient Celtic confessional song, attributed to St. Patrick, expressing the Christ who is present everywhere)

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all who love me,
Christ in mouth of friends and stranger.

***Assurance of Pardon**

As Christ is present in all time, so, too, is the mystery of God's grace.
God's love draws us into life. Put all fear aside. We are forgiven.
Praise be to God for the mystery of grace.

Thought For the Day

The Lord's Prayer

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, for ever. Amen.

The Scriptures

Exodus 33:12-23
Matthew 22:15-22

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People

Where the world is merciless
we will be God's mercy.
Where the world is hopeless

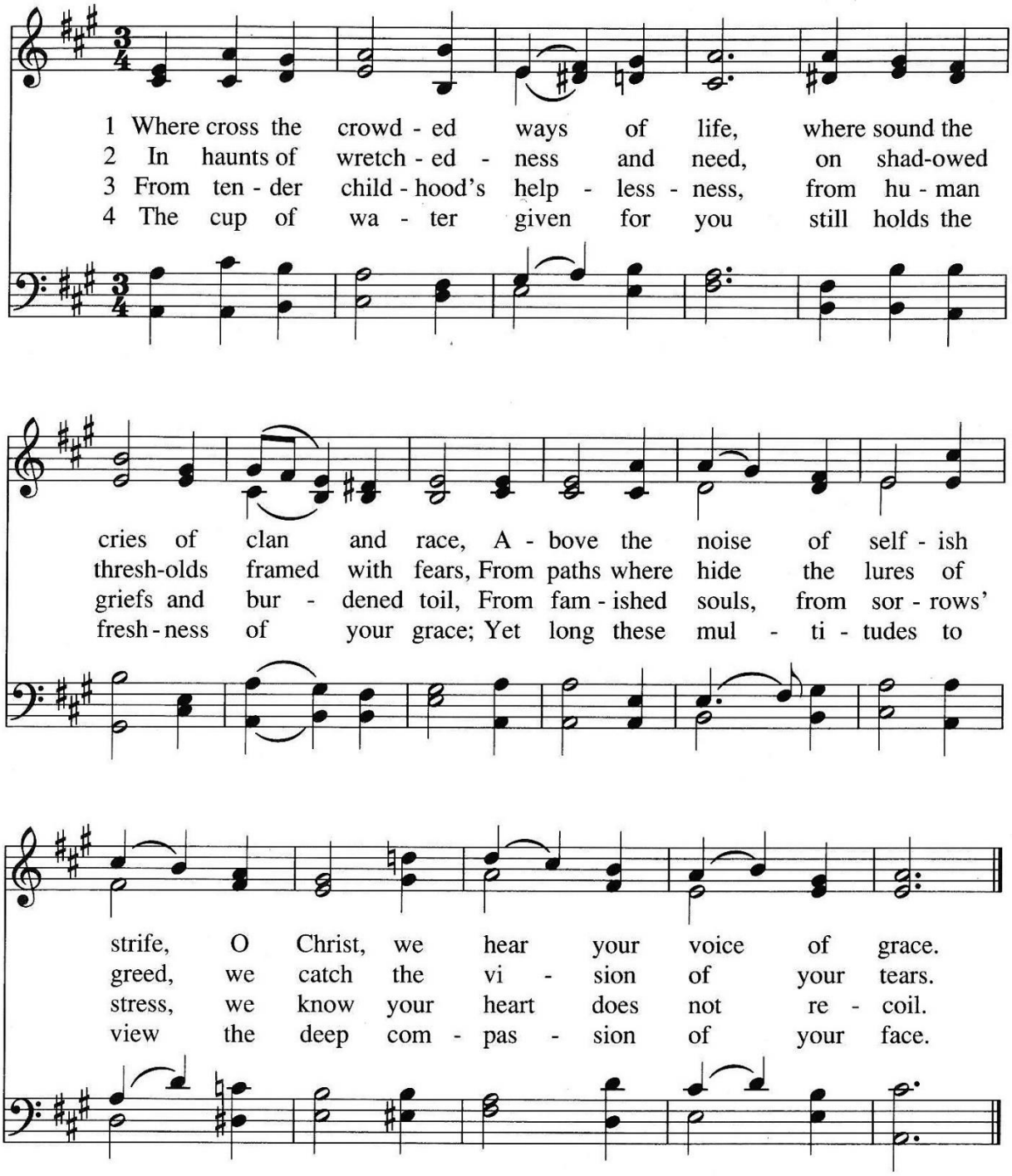
we will be God's hope.
Where there is injustice
we will be God's justice.
Where there is sadness
we will be God's joy.
Where the world is doubting
we will be God's faith.
Where there is ingratitude
we will be God's grace.
Where there is confusion
we will be God's truth.
Where there is weakness
we will be God's strength.
Where the world is wounded
we will be God's healing.
Where the world is weeping
we will be God's song.
Where the world is despairing
we will be God's beauty.
Where the world is crumbling
we will be God's rock.
Where there is no tenderness
we will be God's child.
Where there is loneliness
we will be God's smile.
Where the world is dying
we will be God's life.
Where there is darkness
we will be God's light.
May our lives change the world one person at a time.
May our lives be the presence of Christ, the mystery of God,
in the heartbeat of life. Amen.

Faces of Love *Mark Ulrich and Darryl Glick*

Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service

Anthem *May the Light of God Go with You* *- Besig*
ERUCC Singers

***Closing Hymn** *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* *- No. 543, stanzas 1,2,5,6*



5 O Sav-ior, from
the moun-tain-side,
Make haste to heal
these hearts of pain;
A-mong these rest-less
throngs a-bide,
O tread the cit-y's streets a-gain:

6 Till all shall learn
com-pas-sion's might,
And fol-low where
your feet have trod,
Till glo-rious from
your realm of light,
Shall come the cit-y of our God.

***Benediction**

The blessing of God's gentle hand,
the wisdom of God's living Christ
and the power of God's own Spirit
be with you, always.

Amen.

***Postlude**

Worship Notes: Today's liturgy is from Seasons of the Spirit.

Every Sunday at 10:30 https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzioh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi

Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w
You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in honor and in memory of our son, Kevin, USMC, who would be 69 on October 28th by Fran and Fred Wenner.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of Vic Marchand by Jack Day and Peter Brehm.

Prayer List - Please remember the following people in your prayers this week: Lauren Jenkins (niece of Donna Logee), Pat Condo, Ro Higinbotham, Maryann Simmons, Peggy Githerman, The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee (sister of Milt Crutchley), Alyce Schimd (sister of Dennie Schmid), Lois Wilson (Dan Smith's aunt), Jerry Cassell (brother of Ave Barr), Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg,) Susan Matesa (friend of Dan Smith & Austin Byrd), Larry Maples, Jane Doll, Susan McCauley (niece of Jack Stush), Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Terry Smiley (uncle of Scott Smiley), Shawn Smiley (cousin of Scott Smiley), Joe Jahoda (Kim Jahoda's dad), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Ann and Cal Theiss (parents of Katharine Alley), Frank Tymczyszyn(brother in law of Nancy Jones), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser).

We ask you to remember all of those currently serving in the Armed Forces. Your prayers and cards are welcomed and appreciated by those on our prayer list.

Worship Next Week: October 25 Ctrl + Click HERE to join worship Sunday 10:30 a.m.
As the community of Jesus' disciples, we are called to find ways to proclaim the love of God to our neighbors. The Gospel lesson in Matthew 22: 34-46 reminds the emerging Christian community of Jesus' rules – unconditional love for God and neighbor. Today's reading from the Hebrew scriptures, Deuteronomy 34: 1-12, brings to an end the life of Moses. He is given a glimpse of the promised land but he will not cross over into it.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY!! ON-LINE

Join us for Zoom Sunday School for Children and Youth at 9:30 a.m.

Kindergarten thru 4th grade Sunday School Teachers: Dawn Lagrotteria and Kim Sexton
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89653038025?pwd=djRPU05TNDFYczFMVUdOVzdmWnpuUT09
Meeting ID: 896 5303 8025 Passcode: 667229

5th - 7th Grade Sunday School Teachers: Kathryn King, Arthur Slade and Jim Weitz
https://zoom.us/j/92955152861?pwd=VStwT3ZISDlLOVhhTWJRdTB0aHRyUT09
Meeting ID: 929 5515 2861 Passcode: hpQSF1

High School Teachers: Pastor Daniel, Stephanie Sites and Glenn Wallace
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84314617999?pwd=Rkd1N2JyZDFHdmtPYlBMTitkUzhUdz09
Meeting ID: 843 1461 7999 Passcode: 979546

Join Tuesday Bible Study via Zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/608416206?pwd=NzFtVUsxUmQ5eGpxMmk4WDB6Z0lUUT09
Meeting ID: 608 416 206 Passcode: 588188
Each Monday, we will send out a Bible study sheet. The passage will be one of the lessons from the previous Sunday's scripture readings. You are invited to use the material for your own personal reflection and, if you wish, join a Zoom call on Tuesdays at 11:00 am to discuss the passage with others.
If you wish to be added to this Bible Study mailing, please let Amy know: aaguilar@erucc.org

Wednesday Evening Book Study with Esther Ziegler Thru October
The Wednesday Evening Study Group is meeting at 7 pm via Zoom. We are reading and discussing Cathedral on Fire: a Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis by Brooks Berndt, Minister for Environmental Justice in the UCC. The title of the slim book comes from the concept that the natural world around us is God's cathedral and it is time to act as if it were literally on fire. Each week we will read approximately 10 pages of the book in preparation for the week's discussion. If you are interested in participating in the group, please contact Esther Ziegler estherrziegler@gmail.com

COVID Support-Encouragement Group MEETING ON OCTOBER 20th
The class is called "Surviving and Thriving During the Covid Virus." The virus pandemic has been difficult for everyone. This group will provide a safe place to talk about what it's like to go through the pandemic. The group will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 2-3 pm. It is a drop-in group, no preparation needed. Joan and Allen Maples will be hosting the group outside (weather permitting). Please bring your mask and a chair; and we will be social distancing. As a backup, we will be using Zoom, For additional information please contact Allen Maples at allen.maples@gmail.com or call 301-663-5351.

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Daniel for a check-in **Tuesday and Thursday at noon**: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/683955819 If you need to know how to set up Zoom, contact the office and we will attempt to walk you through the process. PW 551754

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY from 7-8 pm
Called to be the Church: The Book of Acts for a New Day
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89672369983?pwd=VkljN0gvbHJ6ZVZJaVRKY0s0WmlpZz09
Meeting ID: 896 7236 9983 Password: 427069
(If you are interested in participating in this study, contact the church office for the materials)

As we study Acts, we see a church that is dynamic and alive, not static or stuck. The gospel message and movement did not come to an end with Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. There was a whole new beginning, one that no one could have predicted. In so many ways, Acts is the perfect book for a God is still speaking Church. Here more truth and light breaks forth from God's Holy Word each new day as the movement of faith spreads like wildfire. Among the matters to which Acts pays attention, in addition to leadership and conflict, are cultural diversity and the encounter with people who are not of our race or culture; the use of wealth and possessions; the role of women in the church; the relationship between church and state or between Christians and civil authorities; and the challenge of persecution. Beyond that, Acts is full of rollicking good stories and adventures.

October 22 Acts 25: 1-12 October 29 Acts 26

From the Stewardship/Generosity Committee – Faces of Love
Questions for Reflection - #3
Over the last two weeks we invited you to reflect on what it has meant to you to give financially to the church and to think about the power of giving in your own life. Now, as we approach Consecration Sunday on the 25th when we offer our pledges, the Questions for Reflection are:

What now do you feel called to give to the church? The pledge card you received in the mail offers a chart of percentages of income. Would you consider pledging a portion of your income? This is a personal, spiritual question and each person will answer it in their own way.

Prayerful giving through financial support of ERUCC is a part of our personal faith. However, if anyone for conscientious reason prefers not to make this kind of commitment at this time, we want you to feel comfortable in not participating.

As a reminder, whether or not you make a pledge next week, we want to see you – however briefly – to celebrate and to extend our personal thanks for the many ways in which you support the ministries and mission of ERUCC, especially in this ongoing pandemic! To this end, the Stewardship Generosity Team is hosting a socially distanced "**Consecration Sunday Drive-by"** for the entire congregation, from 12 – 2 p.m. Enter the church parking lot from West Church Street. Our gloved and masked team members will safely greet you with a tasty treat and a cheery welcome. Please exit the church through the rear alley onto West 2nd Street. To help us prepare, please contact David Howard if you need a gluten-free option or need your treat delivered. Email: dehowardcello@gmail.com; Phone or text: 202-841-5061.

We are the church together; together we are Faces of Love.

How to be Anti-Racist
Engagement, Conversation & Opportunities

"Becoming an anti-racist is a life-long journey. It happens in community with other committed people who journey together and commit to decentering whiteness, leaning into practices to decolonize socialized patterns of thinking and behaviors. The process includes relearning history, correcting false narratives, and working towards radical shifts in policies and structures that harm black lives". ~ Velda Love

Book Discussions
7 pm via Zoom Call
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87172055650?pwd=T0JPUGxxQVk0YnJzT1lpQk9uWHlhZz09
Meeting ID: 871 7205 5650 PW: 249876

November 2
So You Want to Talk About Race
Ijeoma Oluo

Movie Discussions
(Watch the movie at home and then engage in the conversation. Conversations will be held by Zoom call at 7 pm on the designated dates. If you do not have access to streaming services, call the church office to make arrangements to see the films.)
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84061140430?pwd=OTFoRGJ0QnNvU2hZVXBBbTh5VjlUQT09
Meeting ID: 840 6114 0430 PW: 268380

October 25
"When They See Us"

Conversations on Exploring Whiteness
Why Talk About Whiteness? Because we can't talk about racism without it.
With Susan Kulp and David Howard
October 18 at 7 pm via Zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84957370471?pwd=eHBMejdGQmExRC9jeENYdG1MNExUQT09

Stay Connected and Get Informed!
There are many ways to receive information about what is happening at church each week. The weekly bulletin, the weekly informational email, and our monthly newsletter, The Trinity Chimes, Facebook, and Instagram. @eruccfred
Thursday Thoughts-A weekly emailed message that shares updates, highlights the upcoming service's scripture and focus, and includes announcements about Sunday School. To sign up to receive Thursday Thoughts, contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or aaguilar@erucc.org and share your preferred email address.
Trinity Chimes—ERUCC's monthly newsletter. A more in-depth look on what's happening with the congregation. How we're reaching out, learning and volunteer opportunities, member and social program updates. Receive Trinity Chimes by email! Contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or aaguilar@erucc.org to request to be added. (Paper copies also available upon request.)

The (Younger) Voter Initiative has made plans to hold four Friday night gatherings from 6 to 8 p.m. on the patio, complete with food trucks, music and inspiring speakers. The goal is to educate and motivate those who attend about the importance of voting and making their voice heard, while building momentum for casting their ballot.

Date	Programming
October 23: Exercise your Power/Be Empowered	Black Lives Matter Youth Leader & March to Ballot Box at Talley Center

Everyone is welcome to join. Volunteers will be needed. We will also be serving free apple cider and water and have a s'mores fire pit.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt. *1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6*

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 18, 2020 — 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Living Messages
Children's Sabbath
Laity Sunday

Abigail Henderson, formerly pastor at Northfield United Church of Christ in Northfield, Minnesota learned that not just a good feeling, but actual data supported a queer/trans youth group (CYAN) she had started.

She reports that "a coalition of non-profits in the town received a grant to track and work to improve health and well-being outcomes for children and youth in the community. One of the people connected to that grant contacted me… 'I wanted to share some data with you that we are finally getting from the Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) that all 5-12th graders took last year... As I am sure you recall the 2016 numbers were quite concerning; 25% of LGB youth reported a Positive Identity and Outlook score that was deemed to meet the threshold to be equipped for learning as compared to 60% of all youth. For the Social Competence numbers, they were 55% for LGB youth as compared to 74% for all youth.

Well - I am so happy to be able to tell you that the numbers for LGB identifying youth have seen a significant increase! While still below the numbers for all youth they are the only group where we are seeing growth. In 2019 the Positive Identity and Outlook had increased to 43% for LGB youth as compared to 51% for all youth (an 8% difference in 2019 vs 35% in 2016) and the Social Competence number had increased to 63% for LGB youth as compared to 70% for all youth (a 7% difference in 2019 vs a 19% difference in 2016). Although I wish we didn't see any difference in numbers (and that we saw higher numbers overall), I believe this growth has been remarkable and is noteworthy! I also believe that this growth is because of you, Abby. You started something absolutely remarkable with CYAN that has made, and continues to make, a huge difference in the lives of so many. Thank you. Thank you for being a champion for youth when they needed it most, for changing the conversation in our community, and for being an authentic role model. You have left an incredible mark and I hope that you know that you changed lives. I am so glad that CYAN has been able to continue on the strong foundation that you built - it is needed in our community and for our youth."'

All those of you who pour heart and soul into work with youth without knowing the outcome, take heart! Here's actual data to show that the work you're doing really matters.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BUL0107

8½" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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