



JOY
GOD-INSPIRED

Thank you for worshipping 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.

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 worshipping 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, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.



Thank you.



Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor (bkdaniel@erucc.org)

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EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

July 11, 2021

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

10:30 a.m.

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

From the dawn of creation,

God has called us by name.

From before we are born,

we are loved as God's own.

In the moments of joy,

we are given God's presence.

In the seasons of struggle,

God lavishes us with grace.

Now, in this moment of worship,

we are brought together as God's people.

Here in this sacred space,

we are marked with God's Spirit.

Let us lift our heads and open our hearts.

God is the ruler of glory.

Come, let us worship.

*Opening Prayer

Redeeming and Adopting God,

**you have welcomed us as your people and given us the
privilege of being your beloved children.**

**As we gather to worship you, give us clean hands and pure
hearts to worship you fully,**

**so that we may dance and sing unencumbered by the
pressures of this world,**

but caught up in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

*Opening Hymn *Gather Us In*

Here in this place new light is streaming

Now is the darkness vanished away

See in this space our fears and our dreamings

Brought here to you in the light of this day

- M. Haugen

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name
We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song
Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones**

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

When you called us to be your children,
we turned away and rebelled.

When you called us to steward creation,
we used the land for our own benefit.

When you called us to love our neighbour,
we chose to love ourselves.

When you called us to generosity,
we kept your resources in our pockets.

When you called us to be peacemakers,
we supported systems of violence.

When you called us to be voices of justice,
we stayed silent in the face of suffering.

Forgive us, we pray.

**Clean our hands from our inaction, purify our hearts
from disobedience, and give us your grace so that
we may live as your children and walk in your will. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Even when we fail to answer God's call,
even when we ignore God's direction,
even when we look only after ourselves,
still, God eagerly awaits our repentance.
Still, God runs to offer us grace.

Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Praise be to God, who has marked us with the Spirit
and redeemed us as God's people. Praise to the glory of God!**

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 Scripture

Psalm 85:9-13

Mark 6:14-29

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

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

Anthem *How Sweet the Sound*

- arr. M. Hayes
ERUCC Singers

***Closing Hymn** *When Peace, Like a River*

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* **Benediction**

And now may you dance with joy in the presence of God,
and may you know that you are God's beloved, sealed in the
Spirit, and claimed as God's own so that you may serve God
and your neighbor. Amen.

Postlude *(remain seated)*



Worship Notes: Today's liturgy: Copyright © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2020 Seasons of the Spirit™
Seasons, FUSION Pentecost 1 2021.



Every Sunday at 10:30

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzloh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

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 by the Doll children in honor of the love between their parents, Jane and Jack Doll, for their wedding anniversary on July 15th.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Jack Day and Peter Brehm.

Worship Next Week: July 18

This Sunday we read from Ephesians 2:11–22. Christian communities throughout Asia Minor were finding their way. They consisted of people from different backgrounds, and the old animosities and traditions that existed between them were hard to shift. These words remind us that all are welcome. The early church is called to build something new and unprecedented around the cornerstone of Christ. The story in Mark 6:30-34 & 53-56, in which Jesus and his disciples pause for some respite and prayer in a quiet place. In a lovely invitation, Jesus calls the disciples to “come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile.”

Today, July 11

Deacon: Chuck Baldree, Matt Pomeroy

Next Week: July 18

Deacon: Joe Adkins, Matt Davis

Chimers:

Saturday, July 10: Dick Williams

Sunday, July 11: Kelly Esslinger

Saturday, July 17: Suzanne Morris

Sunday, July 18: Tricia Coffey

When Peace, Like a River

(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.

1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought—my
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the

Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 11, 2021

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

God-inspired Joy

Last year at this time, several months into the COVID pandemic and not an end in sight, Rev. Rebekah Moyer of Emmanuel UCC, in Allentown, PA was in search of joy. She thought wistfully of the joy that she experienced at Christmas, and wondered if others might want that joy, too. So, she and the congregation she serves initiated Christmas In July.

Pastor Becky, as she is known, said in her sermon that day “I thought about all of the hustle and bustle that goes along with the Christmas season and all of the chaos that comes during that season. I also thought about how quickly baby Jesus is packed away and our Christmas “high” is taken away. ...As I was reflecting on all of this I couldn’t help but think to myself: After the Christmas holiday is over, how many of us put Christ back in a shoe box? I started to wonder what happens to Christmas if we take away the ribbons and the bows. If we forget about Santa Claus and decorating Christmas trees. If we don’t have to worry about baking cookies or pies or serving extravagant dinners. If we don’t have to worry about running around looking for the perfect Christmas present. If we don’t have to worry about the lines we usually have to stand in at the store and the irritated faces of strangers when you take the last of whatever the “popular” present is that year. If we get rid of the frustration of wrapping gifts. And I thought that maybe, just maybe, July is an opportunity for us. Perhaps we can forget all of the extra stuff that we have added to the season and really celebrate Christ. We can celebrate what the birth of Christ really means to us without the commercialization, without the pressures that come along with everything surrounding Christmas. ...I was reminded that, although the nights are short and the weather is warm, we need that light and that hope. We need that joy that comes with hearing the story of the baby lying in the manger all of the time. The more I thought about it, the more I realized that the Christmas story does not belong in a box, tucked away somewhere safe. I think we need to hear the miracle of the birth of Christ throughout the year. Have you put Jesus in a box in a closet, attic, or basement with the Christmas stuff? Have you packed him away with the palm fronds and the Easter decorations? Is your joy for the Savior on layaway with the gifts you have set aside for December? Elizabeth and Mary were filled with so much joy that they could not hold it in. Mary’s pregnancy, her child, brought the One who would reshape the world, the One who would confront injustice and deliver new hope, the very presence of God. It is time for us to find him again, the baby in the manger. It is time for us to find joy. The most wonderful news, he is always looking for you, waiting for you. Christmas joy is not a single day or month. It is for us, followers of Christ, a way of life.”



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