

**Congregational Church of Birmingham
United Church of Christ**

Beguiled By Beauty



Cultivating
Contemplation
& Compassion

A Just World for All
September 13, 2020
10:00 AM

**Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For thy church that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
one pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

WE PROCLAIM

Ezekiel 31:3-7 (Inclusive Bible)

Chris Mead

Look to Assyria, once a Lebanon cedar
[beautiful branches, dense shade, towering height;]
it is top among the clouds.
Springs nourished it,
and deep waters made it grow tall;
their streams flowed around its base,
sending their channels to all the trees in the countryside.
So it towered high above every other tree of the field.
Its boughs grew larger and its branches extended out,
nourished by an abundance of water.
All the birds of the air nested in its boughs;
under its branches wild animals gave birth to their young.
All the great nations thrived in its shade.

It was majestic in its beauty with its spreading boughs,
its roots reaching deeply into an abundance of water.

SEARCHING FOR BEAUTY: A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Dr. Carmel Tinnes,
Director of Christian Education

God of Goodness [repeat]
Thank you for beauty [repeat]
Thank you for life [repeat]
Help me... help you... [repeat]
be a messenger of good news [repeat]
for the beauty of the earth. Amen. [repeat]

MUSIC OF THE DAY

"We Walk in Love"
Virtual Chancel Choir

Witkowski and Colon

ENCOUNTERING PRAYER

Pastor Louise

THE CONVERSATION

"Deep Waters"

Pastor and People

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"Look Around"
by Marsha Jean Moors-Charles

arr. Collins

We continue to pray for:

- All persons at risk in contracting COVID-19
- Annabelle, Cindy Kyle's mother, progressing through oral surgeries
- Char, Marla Otterbacher's mother, in treatment for breast cancer
- Helen, Heather Schulz's mom, in chemo treatments for bladder cancer
- Julia Blakeslee, recovering from hip replacement and a broken femur
- Kevin Wilson, battling an infection at home after hospitalization
- Kyoko Miyazaki, recovering from cancer surgery and beginning chemo
- Liz Hoban, in chemo and radiation treatments
- Mary Perrin's father, in kidney failure; and mother, separated from him and at risk in assisted living
- Melissa and Calliope Crook, to be reunited permanently

- Neal, Kevin Wilson's father, in and out of hospital and rehab
- Rob, Sue Potter's brother, with metastasized cancer in his bones
- Ruth Biersdorf, in treatment for cancer
- Victims of war, violence, and natural disasters everywhere
- Youth and adults with mental health challenges

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Louise

THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER OF JESUS

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

RESPONDING IN BEAUTY (THE OFFERING)

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please say hello in the chat or leave us a comment. Subscribe to our YouTube channel. Respond with compassion to the beauty of life with giving commitments mailed to the church office or donations given to the church and many other ministries on our website, www.ccbucc.org. And please send prayer requests by email or text.

Want to give electronically? Go to the "Donate" link at www.ccbucc.org, log in and donate to whatever fund you choose – Giving Commitments, the five UCC Offerings, other Outreach partners, and more! Please contact Lynn Wilsher, Treasurer, if you have questions at treasurerccb@gmail.com.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Paul & Cynthia von Oeyen

ONE: Divine Goodness and Love is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them up to our God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ONE: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Beguiled Creator of heaven and earth,
your love so desired a response
that you formed us in your image
and breathed into us your breath of life,
filling us with your essence of goodness.

We sometimes lose sight of this connection to you,
yet still your love remains steadfast and compassionate.

You deliver us from the captivity of our forgetfulness,
reminding us of your eternal covenant of presence,
and you continue to speak to us through prophetic voices of hope.

Therefore, as the people of God at the table together,
we take this bread and this cup in remembrance of Jesus Christ.

We lift up our hearts and give thanks to God.

You are the God of our lives and everything is yours.

ALL: You give us life and you give us responsibilities.

ONE: Though we have missed your beauty, you love us still.

You came into our lives through Jesus Christ.

ALL: Christ has shared our suffering.

Christ has conquered death for us.

Christ now lives in us through the Spirit.

ONE: Bless this bread of life and bless this cup of blessing.

ALL: Bless us as we offer ourselves as ministers to one another.

ONE: May this feast, feed hungering souls.

**ALL: May our faith in you make contact
with our siblings seeking compassion and justice. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pastor Louise

Therefore, O God, make this bread be a sign of your gifts to us by the power of your Spirit. May our sharing of this bread and this cup stir within us the desire to embrace all people of the world, so that Christ may be known and served in our world. Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor Louise

All who follow the love and peace of Jesus are welcome. We are blessed to share this feast together. Let us eat and drink and be thankful. Amen!

This series invites us to integrate contemplative practices into our daily lives as a way of opening to the Divine in deeper ways, thereby training our spirits for compassion in all things. This week's ritual action is a time of meditative "watering." Set a reminder to pour yourself and drink a glass of water and then refill that same glass and water some other living thing... offering a glass of water to someone else or to a plant, tree, garden, etc. As you do so, allow your mind to slow, your heart to open, your eyes to drink in your surroundings. You may want to put a note nearby, "Water is life. Water your life so you can water other life... for the beauty of the earth."

CLOSING SONG "When, in Awe of God's Creation"

Sing Along

[CH #688]

**When, in awe of God's creation,
we view earth from outer space
this mysterious, floating marble,
strewn with clouds and bathed in grace,
how can we not pause in wonder,
seeing earth as one and whole?
As we heal our proud divisions,
may earth's healing be our goal.**

**Blue and tan, with lace clouds swirling,
flung in space and circling there,
habitat for myriad creatures
meant for land and sea and air!
Must we draw our lines of hatred
marking nation, class, and race?
God, forgive us, we entreat you,
for all pride of self and place.**

**Living now, this is the picture
we no longer can deny,**

**for we see no angry boundaries
when our view is from the sky:
rivers, deserts, forests, snowfields,
oceans, lakes, and mountains too,
but no fences built for barring
you from me or me from you.**

**Now we face the unknown future,
challenged by the work at hand.
Still the God of all creation
summons us with one command:
"Love each other!" Will we do it?
"Love each other!" Wars might cease!
"Love each other!" Justice follows:
"Love each other!" There is peace!**

BLESSED BY BEAUTY FOR THE JOURNEY

Pastor Louise

POSTLUDE

"Go Now in Peace"

Besig

Liturgical phrases from: Bare Feet and Buttercups: Resources for Ordinary Time by Ruth Burgess (Wild Goose Publications 2008); and Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday by Ruth Burgess (Wild Goose Publications 2006).

WE THANK our readers, virtual choir, Tech Team: Gabriel White-Vega and Chris Hiner, Worship Design Team: Leslie O'Day-Benyo and Elaine Winter, Joe Bentley, and Marina Stojanovska for all their help with today's service.

OUR MINISTRY UPDATES

THE CCB DRIVEWAY AND PARKING LOT are being sealed and restriped today, Sunday, September 13 & tomorrow, Monday, September 14 (weather permitting). The paved driveway and parking lot will be closed to

vehicle traffic until Tuesday morning, September 15. If we experience rain or high humidity levels the surfaces will take longer to dry and will not be accessible to vehicle traffic until Wednesday morning, September 16. Limited vehicle traffic may use the gravel path west of the main driveway and park on the grass.

LAST "TEX MIX STORIES OF EARTHY MYSTICISM" THIS WEEK: This week is the FINAL SESSION of this video and discussion, featuring Rev. Dr. Tex Samples. Join us at 7:30 PM this Thursday, September 17. No homework or previous participation required, just Zoom to be together: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89719836002?pwd=aW80b1pldVY1UTJmV1V4MlhCK01Vdz09>.

SUNDAY MORNING INFO WITH ZOOM & YOU TUBE LINKS! Check your email for the CCB Weekly E-Update. It's sent out each Friday with important information and all the up-to-date Zoom and YouTube links for the Sunday Worship Service, Social Hour, and the Thursday "Tex Mix" Adult CE Conversation.

HOPE IN THE GARDEN VESPERS SERVICE: This Saturday, September 19 @ 4:00 PM, weather permitting. RSVP required to Galen Fisher at gbfisher@umich.edu



**2020 BIRMINGHAM/
BLOOMFIELD AREA CROP
HUNGER WALK -**

On Sunday, September 27, CCB will join other local faith organizations to participate in the

Birmingham/Bloomfield Area CROP Hunger Walk. As in years past, we are looking for both walkers and sponsors for this event.

The online Walker registration and sponsor donation process has not changed from prior years. Based on last year's success, we encourage both walkers and sponsors to sign-up and contribute electronically through our team's dedicated website, www.crophungerwalk.org/birminghammi/ccb.

Simply click "Join Our Team" if you wish to walk with us, or "Donate" if you wish to sponsor one of our team members.

To comply with the Governor's Executive Orders, there will be some notable changes this year. Instead of a single set Walk route based from Birmingham First UMC, we have the option to participate in the familiar Birmingham walk, a concurrent walk around the campus of Kirk in the Hills, or you may opt for a self-guided walk in your neighborhood, park or favorite bucolic path. The choice is yours! Additional Walk details will be forthcoming, but we encourage our participants to take selfies and group photos and to share them on the CROP Hunger Walk Facebook page.

In 2019, CCB raised \$1,600 for this important mission. Please help us reach this year's CCB goal of \$1,650. Online donations are preferred, but cash or checks are very much appreciated. Checks can be made out to CWS/CROP and mailed directly to CCB (1000 Cranbrook Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304) for forwarding. Please contact me if you have any questions relative to Walk registration and donations, or if you would like additional Walk information.

Steve Payer, CCB Team Captain

stevenjpayer@gmail.com

248-765-3921

SOUTH OAKLAND SHELTER UPDATE: Each year, we begin preparations for hosting the South Oakland Shelter in August. When the pandemic began, SOS suspended the rotating program and has been housing clients in a hotel in Auburn Hills. What had been a shelter housing 30-35 men, women & children has increased to 90! In this model, housing costs are \$60,000 per month plus \$25,000 per month in food costs (two individually packaged meals per person per day plus continental breakfast). That breaks down to roughly \$225 per person per week. While SOS/Lighthouse has received some grant funding to offset these costs, this model will be in effect for the foreseeable future and monetary donations are needed.

In lieu of hosting the shelter during our usual week in October, CCB and its partner churches are hoping to raise \$1,000 per church. If you would like to donate to this effort, you may mail a check to the church with SOS in the memo line or donate online at the CCB website. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Payer or Lynn Wilsher.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY! Since mid-March, more than 1,200 volunteers with the COVID Response Network have served the needs of more than 2,000 households in Oakland County and beyond. Almost 10,000 aid requests have been completed, including more than 7,000 food deliveries representing more than 500,000 meals.

With many volunteers returning to work, additional drivers are needed to make deliveries of produce, milk, eggs, bread & non-perishable items to the same families one or more afternoons each week. The pickup site has moved from Oakland University to: 2230 Mall Dr E, Waterford Twp, MI 48328 (W off Telegraph Rd in the old Summit Place Mall complex). An additional pickup site has been added on Mondays at: Genesis the Church, 309 N Main St, Royal Oak, MI 48067. It's 100% no contact (i.e. your car is loaded and you drop off on recipient's porch) and depending on the number of deliveries, takes approx. 2 hours. If you are interested in participating, go to mycovidresponse.org to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Wilsher.

WATER COLLECTION: Your help allows those without access to safe water, the ability to wash and clean to combat the spread of the coronavirus. The most efficient way to help is through monetary contributions. Collection of water at CCB's front door has ended. Greg Panzica has set up an easy way of donating by credit card on his website at www.PeaceNick.org. He'll find the most economical ways to purchase and deliver water directly where it's needed most in Detroit and other areas around our state. Or you can send a check to CCB with "People's Water Board" on the memo line so donations can be combined and forwarded to them. Finally, you may send checks directly to: People's Water Board Coalition, c/o GDABVI, 16625 Grand River Ave, Detroit, MI 48227. To see where your water donations are going proceed to: <http://peacenick.org/cgi-bin/index.pl?fs=4&init=1>.

Peace Nick's and the People's Water Board's 501(c)(3) non-profit designations are pending. Donations to Peace Nick will be used entirely for bottled water. Donations to People's Water Board may be used for bottled water and/or ancillary services (gloves, masks, disinfectants, transport, etc.) Questions? Contact Greg Panzica (313-215-5767) or Paul von Oeyen (248-891-7509). Thank You!

What's Happening @ CCB-UCC This Week

Bold indicates CCB and/or UCC related event. Regular font indicates outside usage.

Sunday **9:15 AM** **Sundays with Carmel** (Zoom)
9/13/20 **10:00 AM** **Worship with Communion** (YouTube)
 11:00 AM **Zoom to Social Hour** (Zoom)
Parking Lot Sealing & Restriping – No Access (weather permitting)

Monday 7:00 AM Sober Morning AA (AR)
9/14/20 12:00 PM New Beginnings of B.H. AA (outside or AR)
 7:00 PM **Stephen Ministry Meeting** (Zoom)
Parking Lot Sealing & Restriping – No Access (weather permitting)

Tuesday 7:00 AM Sober Morning AA (AR)
9/15/20 12:00 PM New Beginnings of B.H. AA (outside or AR)

Wednesday 7:00 AM Sober Morning AA (AR)
9/16/20 10:00 AM New Beginnings Al-Anon (outside)
 12:00 PM New Beginnings of B.H. AA (outside or AR)
 8:00 PM **Future Church Team Meeting** (Zoom)

Thursday 7:00 AM Sober Morning AA (AR)
9/17/20 12:00 PM New Beginnings of B.H. AA (outside or AR)
 7:30 PM **"Tex Mix" Storytelling Adult C.E.** (Zoom)
 7:30 PM Nan's Group Women's AA (outside or AR)

Friday 7:00 AM Sober Morning AA (AR)
9/18/20 12:00 PM New Beginnings of B.H. AA (outside or AR)

Saturday **4:00 PM** **Hope in the Garden Vespers** (outside)
9/19/20

Sunday **9:15 AM** **Sundays with Carmel** (Zoom)
9/20/20 **10:00 AM** **Worship** (YouTube)
 11:00 AM **Zoom to Social Hour** (Zoom)
 11:30 AM **Leadership Assembly Meeting** (Zoom)

The complete church calendar is on our website: www.ccbucc.org.

A Just World for All

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost.....September 13, 2020

Welcome to CCB-UCC an "Open and Affirming" Church

We warmly welcome everyone to worship and into the full life and leadership of the church. Whatever your background - your race, your nationality, your physical or mental condition, your gender, your sexual orientation - whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you in love as Jesus Christ welcomes all. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, may the comfort and challenge of God's presence renew and inspire us all throughout the coming week. Again, welcome!



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Contact a Stephen Minister Leader:

Dr. Paul von Oeyen 248-646-0837

Rev. Louise R. Ott 989-245-0092

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM

1000 CRANBROOK ROAD (@ WOODWARD AVE)
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48304-2725



a just
world
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ucc.org

PHONE: 248-646-4511

EMAIL: ccbinfo@ccbucc.org

CCB WEBSITE: www.ccbucc.org

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE WEBSITE: www.michucc.org

DENOMINATIONAL WEBSITE: www.ucc.org

CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Ministers - The Congregation

Carmel Tinnes, Director of Christian Education

Marina Stojanovska, Substitute Accompanist

Office Hours: Open Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, lunch break 12:30 PM-1:00 PM

Rev. Louise R. Ott, Pastor

Joe Bentley, Interim Choral Director

Beth Prevost, Church Administrator