

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



"Teach Us to Pray"
A series on the prayer of Jesus

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2022

10:00 AM

Welcome Visitors! Please take a moment to join us in signing and passing the Ritual of Friendship books in the pews. We heartily welcome you to this church family.

You May Contact Rev. Ralph Brown for any pastoral request or emergency by phone call or text to 586-872-1618.

Prayer Requests? Text Rev. Brown (586-872-1618) by 9:30 AM Sunday for inclusion in the Sunday morning prayers, and/or by 11:00 AM Sunday to be included in the Weekly Prayers email.

Get in the Loop! Stay current on CCBUCC news. Contact the church office to receive our email communications.

View Sunday Worship Live Streams and all previously recorded services at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CongregationalChurchofBirminghamUCC>

OUR WORSHIP IS LIVE STREAMED so those unable to be with us in person can worship online on our YouTube channel (see link below). We're happy to be accessible to everyone and are deeply grateful to CCBUCC member Chris Hiner for creating the technological set up! Our Media & Communications Specialist, Daniel Jaros, runs the streaming technology during the service. We invite others to be trained to monitor the sound and live chat. Interested in how it works? Observe Daniel and learn the ropes.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CongregationalChurchofBirminghamUCC>

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION & LESSONS: All children & youth (pre-K - 8th grade) are welcome to Sunday School. They will go to their lessons after the *Prayer of Jesus* in the service each Sunday, to be picked up in their classrooms at 11:15 AM after worship. Please complete registration forms for ALL participants in our programming AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. The 2-sided form is on a table at the entrance to the worship area, on our website (www.ccbucc.org), or as a link in the Weekly E-Update MailChimp email. Email both sides of registration forms to Carmel (carmelf711@yahoo.com), or drop them in her mailbox.

WORSHIP GUIDE

(**Bold** indicates in unison.)
[Live Streaming Begins Here]

PRELUDE

"God of Wonders"

Byrd/Hindalong,
arr. Alex-Zsolt

SONG

"Morning Has Broken"

CH #53

**Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Chris Mead and All

Let us pray:

Abba God, who dwells beyond the limits of time and space,
and yet, is revealed to us in the story of your people
and is felt within our hearts and spirits as we lift our hearts in prayer:

Holy is your name.

In this sacred time of worship, we seek your presence
so we might be strengthened, inspired, and moved to do your will.

Let your community come.

We have gathered to ask for all the things, spiritual and physical,
that are needed to sustain our lives and the lives of our neighbors,
near and far.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Your love for us is perfect, but our love for you and our neighbors is not.
When we fail you and others, lift us to renewed faith and obedience.

**Even as you forgive us, teach us to forgive others,
for this we ask in your holy name. Amen.**

THE WORD IN SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:9-15 TIB Chris Mead
"This is how you are to pray: Abba God in heaven, hallowed be your name!
May your reign come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: give
us today the bread of Tomorrow. And forgive our debts, as we hereby forgive
those who are indebted to us. Don't put us to the test, but free us from evil."

For the word of God in Scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us, **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

THE WORD IN MUSIC "One Day" Bob Marley
(Performed by Matisyahu. Recorded by Koolulam.)

TIME WITH CHILDREN Dr. Carmel Tinnes,
Director of Christian Education

THE PRAYER OF JESUS **All People**

**Abba God, your name is holy.
May your community come and your way be followed
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 yours is the way, the power and the glory,
now and forever. Amen.**

(Pre-K through 8th grade children may now go to their lessons.)

OUR CONVERSATION "What the Prayer Teaches Us" Rev. Ralph Brown

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Ralph

We Continue to Pray for:

- Afghan and Ukrainian citizens and refugees, in dire circumstances seeking safety and peace
- All at risk in contracting COVID-19
- Barry McBride, continuing to face health challenges with such courage
- Ben Sharpe, seeking effective treatment for anxiety and depression
- Bob Rauth and family, grieving the death of wife, Marilyn
- The grieving family of Cathy Carey, including husband Roger, and grandchildren Jameson Peterson, Jayden, Illyana and Lydiana Carey
- Cindy Kyle and family, grieving the death of mother, Annabelle
- David, brother of Paul von Oeyen, gratefully in remission from leukemia, and dealing with lingering complications from decreased immunity

- Elie Schulz, recovering from ACL repair surgery
- Greg Peterson and family, grieving the death of aunt, Judy Brooks
- John Lindstrom & Cindy Kyle, as they deal with John's health concerns
- Lee, John, Jessica & Samantha Maloney with the Folsom, Mortimer and Jackson families, all grieving the death of Lee's mother, Barbara Folsom
- Mary Ann Martin, recovering from shoulder replacement surgery
- Megan Futrell and family, grieving the tragic death of 16-year-old, Ashlyn
- Melissa & Brenda Crook and family, separated from Calliope
- Oxford and Uvalde families, students, teachers, school staff and all community members, grieving in the wake of gun violence
- Ruth Biersdorf, in treatment for cancer
- Sue Potter and family, mourning the death of brother, Robert
- Victims of war, violence, and natural disasters everywhere
- Youth and adults with mental health challenges
- The Zeller family, grieving the death of grandmother, Joanne

OUR GIFTS & SERVICE

Pastor Ralph

Your offering is welcomed in support of our ministry and may be made online at www.ccbucc.org; placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the worship area (before, during, or after worship); or mailed to us Attn: Treasurer.

SONG

"More Love to Thee, O Christ"

CH #527

(verses 1 & 2)

**More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!
Hear thou the pray'r I make, on bended knee;
this is my earnest plea, more love, O Christ, to thee,
more love to thee, more love to thee.**

**Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
now thee alone I seek, give what is best;
this all my pray'r shall be, more love, O Christ, to thee,
more love to thee, more love to thee.**

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

Pastor Ralph and All

**Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
return to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"Sing to God"

Handel, arr. Sanborn

[Live Streaming Ends Here]

WE THANK our greeters, ushers, reader, Tech Team: Daniel Jaros & Chris Hiner, Worship Design Team: Leslie O'Day-Benyo, John Benyo & Margherita Fisher, and Music Team: Joe Bentley & Yalan Piao, for all their help with today's service.

JOYS, CONCERNS & MINISTRY UPDATES

Pastor Ralph

(Please sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pad.)

OUR MINISTRY UPDATES

"THE DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS" ADULT C.E.: Join us beginning this Wednesday, September 21, at 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM, for this 6-week conversation on the cringe-worthy lessons of Jesus. For an insightful and challenging discussion of 6 difficult lessons found in the gospels, you can attend either session in person (Conference Room) or on Zoom (see links below or in last Friday's Weekly E-Update email). We'll be using Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's book, *"The Difficult Words of Jesus"*. Here's a brief description:

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give them to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); and he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44).

In the book, Amy-Jill Levine, PhD, shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

Zoom Link to 10:00 AM Session:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81234232731?pwd=MDBDNWEyd1YvNUZ2YUJ3ZU9wVU55UT09>

Zoom Link to 7:00 PM Session:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89267191827?pwd=RkVmQmJ5V3VaTUNaRHpPaHZkb1c1Zz09>

PANEL ON "A FAITH AND JUSTICE APPROACH TO VOTING RIGHTS AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE":

You are invited to attend this DMA panel discussion via Zoom this coming Saturday, September 24, 9-11 AM, as the initial part of the UCC Detroit Metropolitan Association Fall Meeting. This program is inspired by the two recent non-partisan Citizen Ballot Initiatives to amend the Michigan Constitution to ensure the protection of Voting Rights and Reproductive Justice. Expert panelists will include Rev. Kandia Milton, Dr. Rochelle Rubin, Dr. Paul von Oeyen, Dr. Sherry Warren, Randy Block, and Sandy Sorensen, and will be moderated by Rev. Roslyn Bouier. Our new UCC Michigan Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, will offer some reflections after the Q&A period.

All are welcome. There is no fee for this virtual meeting. To register, visit: seamichucc.org. If you cannot register via this link, please call Dorinda Mowatt at 313-244-8406. The Zoom link will be provided on Friday, Sept. 23. For other content questions, please contact Galen Fisher, DMA Vice-Moderator (248-705-2183), or Paul von Oeyen, DMA Social Justice Facilitator (248-891-7509).

THE 2022 BIRMINGHAM/BLOOMFIELD AREA CROP HUNGER WALK is

next Sunday, September 25, 2022. Find more information on how to join our team as a walker and/or sponsor at our team's dedicated website:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/congregational-church-of-birmingham-ucc> Questions? Email: stevenjpayer@gmail.com Thank you!

VEGGIE GARDEN UPDATE! The CCBUCC garden has donated 460 pounds of food so far this year, hopefully with a few more big harvests in the weeks ahead. We were tired of trampling weeds between the rows so we've spread mulch from the pile at the end of the parking lot. Thanks to those who donated herbs for planting along the fence line. Check the photo feed at the link below - some great photos of bountiful harvests: <http://bit.ly/CCBUCCgarden>

MINISTRY TEAMS SIGN-UP: Paper sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall for the next few weeks, or go to the Google sign-up documents (see link below) for all CCBUCC Ministry Teams throughout the year. Check for continuing and new opportunities to participate. Access the document online as many times as you wish. Change/update your choices as needed. Questions? Email Cathy Rupert cathyrupert@hotmail.com. Link here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-SdAgQsKF_zVLNdWYhS-UYS8cuhK1U48_GWqE3PH-Bs/edit#gid=0

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

A Just World for All

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost.....September 18, 2022

Welcome to CCBUCC 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

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM

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DENOMINATIONAL WEBSITE: www.ucc.org

CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Rev. Ralph Brown, Bridge Pastor

Dr. Joe Bentley, Choral Director

Daniel Jaros, Media & Communications Specialist

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM, Lunch Break: 12:30 PM-1:00 PM

Ministers - The Congregation

Dr. Carmel Tinnes, Director of Christian Education

Dr. Yalan Piao, Accompanist

Beth Prevost, Church Administrator