



The United Church of Christ
of Annapolis

Sunday, July 6, 2025, 10:30am
Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Hybrid In-Person & Online Worship Service Order
YouTube LiveStream

Music: William Kelley
Liturgist: Greg Kinard
Preaching: Rev. Ellen Witko

SERVICE NOTES: "+" before a line is an invitation to rise as you are able.
Responses in BOLD are invitation for all to respond. Hymnals –
Purple refers to Glory to God, the purple hymnal, Black refers to
the black New Century Hymnal.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

+ CALL TO WORSHIP AND BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

One: God hears our cries and restores our troubled souls.
Many: We can't keep silent. We sing God's praises with joy!
One: God nurses and comforts us until our hearts are strong
like mountains.
Many: We can't keep silent. We sing God's praises with joy!
One: God's love sustains us to flourishing.
Many: We can't keep silent. We sing God's praises with joy!
One: The peace of the Lord be always with you!
Many: And also with you.

— Share a sign of peace with each other, by commenting on the livestream page, or
send a text to someone, or shout "Peace!" to the world!

+ GLORIA

Gloria, gloria, gloria: in excelsis Deo!

+ HYMN OF PRAISE "Come, Behold! The Feast of Heaven" Purple #511

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**You are the God who makes miracles, the one who turns the sea into
dry land, mourning into dancing, enemies into friends, and empires
into dust. You ask the simple things from us: to eat each other's foods
and enjoy each other's company. You ask the hard things from us: to
love one another, embrace our differences, and seek forgiveness.
Transform us to find hope where there is despair and passion where
there is apathy. Give us trust in your abundance and grant us patience
when we see only scarcity, that we might answer your call to be
laborers in the fields you are sowing. Amen.**

Via Negativa

A time of letting go.

*Even our emptiness — the repressed, the evil, the nothingness —
is all redeemed and we can let go.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Trusting in God's forgiveness,
let us in silence confess our failings
and acknowledge our part in the pain of the world.

{We hold silence}

Before God,
with the people of God,
I confess to turning away from God
in the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.

***May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.***

Amen.

***Before God,
with the people of God,
we confess to turning away from God
in the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.***

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. **Amen.**

Via Creativa

We are co-creators with God in the work of our time.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAISE AND THANKS

One: Let us pray. We praise you, God, for this table
set in love for all who seek you.

Praise, too, for this company,
heaven and earth assembled for the feast.
Praise for the mercy we find here,
your mothering arms embracing all.

**All: Aware of our failings
and grateful for your kindness,
we ask help for our hearts,
that we may grow in love
and serve with our whole lives
the purposes of your mercy
and the cause of justice.**

Mindful also of everyone whose lives are marred by exclusion and pain, we
thank you for the joy we find in your house.

We call to mind every victim
shamed and slaughtered by the world's powers,
everyone who cries for breath.
With them present at this table,
we tell again the dangerous story
of love triumphant over death.

REMEMBERING JESUS

Now, O God, with grateful joy,
we remember Jesus.
He sided with the poor, made the sick well,
welcomed sinners and ate with outcasts.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

He would not hate.
He told the truth at the cost of his life.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

Betrayed and deserted by his friends,
he was killed as a common criminal,
shamed and despised.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

Death could not hold him.
God raised him in power from the grave.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

He returned to us without vengeance,
only mercy in his hands.
He is with us now, to the end of the age.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

And we remember that on the night of betrayal,
he fed us with signs of love:
a loaf, divided and shared;
a cup, poured and passed from hand to hand;
a meal to eat in resistance,
grace and courage for the struggle that goes on.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, Life of our life!
Bless this grain from the earth,
this fruit of the vine.
Make them food and drink of abundant life.

**As we share this meal, help us rejoice
that Christ is present with us here.**

**Give us love for one another,
and make us servants of peace
until your new age of justice comes,
and every creature beholds it.**

THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

Forgiven, loved, and free,
grateful for daily bread,
and eager to owe every neighbor
a debt of justice-love,
we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

**Thy Kindom 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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kindom, the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Come, for all things are ready.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks for all we have been given.

**Thank you, gracious God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus
and the mission of justice you have made our own.**

**Give us the gifts of this holy Communion:
oneness of heart, love for our neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day,
and the life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Listen now, in the reading of Scripture,
for the word and wisdom of God.

We open our hearts to the word and wisdom of God.

2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army. The Lord had helped him and his troops defeat their enemies, so the king of Syria respected Naaman very much. Naaman was a brave soldier, but he had leprosy.

One day while the Syrian troops were raiding Israel, they captured a girl, and she became a servant of Naaman's wife. Some time later the girl said, "If your husband Naaman would go to the prophet in Samaria, he would be cured of his leprosy."

When Naaman told the king what the girl had said, the king replied, "Go ahead! I will give you a letter to take to the king of Israel."

Naaman left and took along 30,000 pieces of silver, 6,000 pieces of gold, and 10 new outfits. He also carried the letter to the king of Israel. It said, "I am sending my servant Naaman to you. Would you cure him of his leprosy?"

When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes in fear and shouted, "That Syrian king believes I can cure this man of leprosy! Does he think I'm God with power over life and death? He must be trying to pick a fight with me."

As soon as Elisha the prophet heard what had happened, he sent the Israelite king this message: "Why are you so afraid? Send the man to me, so that he will know there is a prophet in Israel."

Naaman left with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent someone outside to say to him, "Go wash seven times in the Jordan River. Then you'll be completely cured."

But Naaman stormed off, grumbling, "Why couldn't he come out and talk to me? I thought for sure he would stand in front of me and pray to the Lord his God, then wave his hand over my skin and cure me. What about the Abana River or the Pharpar River? Those rivers in Damascus are just as good as any river in Israel. I could have washed in them and been cured."

His servants went over to him and said, "Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something difficult, you would have done it. So why don't you do what he said? Go wash and be cured."

Naaman walked down to the Jordan; he waded out into the water and stooped down in it seven times, just as Elisha had told him. At once, he was cured, and his skin became as smooth as a child's.

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Later Jesus chose 72 other followers and sent them out two by two to every town and village where he was about to go. He said to them:

A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in. Now go, but remember, I am sending you like lambs into a pack of wolves. Don't take along a moneybag or a traveling bag or sandals. And don't waste time greeting people on the road. As soon as you enter a home, say, "God bless this home with peace." If the people living there are peace-loving, your prayer for peace will bless them. But if they are not peace-loving, your prayer will return to you. Stay with the same family, eating and drinking whatever they give you, because workers are worth what they earn. Don't move around from house to house.

If the people of a town welcome you, eat whatever they offer. Heal their sick and say, "God's kingdom will soon be here!"

But if the people of a town refuse to welcome you, go out into the street and say, "We are shaking the dust from our feet as a warning to you. And you can be sure that God's kingdom will soon be here!"

My followers, whoever listens to you is listening to me. Anyone who says "No" to you is saying "No" to me. And anyone who says "No" to me is really saying "No" to the one who sent me.

When the 72 followers returned, they were excited and said, "Rabbi, even the demons obeyed when we spoke in your name!"

Jesus told them:

I saw Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. I have given you the power to trample on snakes and scorpions and to defeat the power of your enemy

Satan. Nothing can harm you. But don't be happy because evil spirits obey you.
Be happy that your names are written in heaven!

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

SERMON "God's Perspective"
Rev. Ellen Witko

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

Via Transformativa

transforming passion for the world is borne of love. Having given praise, been reminded that we are loved, and participated in the building up of love together, we now prepare ourselves to be transformed by that love to do God's work in the world.

+ HYMN OF INCLUSION "For the Healing of the Nations" Purple #346 v.1,2 & 4

COLLECTION FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

We are deeply appreciative to receive the offering for the life and work of this beloved community. To support the ongoing work of our church, we ask that you please continue to give via the offering plate, online at our website, use the QR code, or online at our website:



www.uccannapolis.org/giving

or

Text to Give: Text "Give \$25" to (410) 376-5446

+ DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
God in all three whom we adore. Amen***

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING

Generous God, we give you thanks for all your blessings to us. Use these gifts we offer as a sign of your great love for the world, so that all may know and share the abundance of your grace; in your holy name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We share our prayers of hope and concern together.

We will conclude our prayers with:

***O Loving God, spirit of hope and peace,
lead us from death to life.***

Lead us from falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe:

Peace ... Peace ... Peace,

CHORAL RESPONSE *John L. Bell*
Amen, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!

+ HYMN OF DEDICATION "We Will Go Out with Joy" Purple #539

BENEDICTION

***May the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore, Amen***

POSTLUDE

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

For thousands of years, Indigenous people called Piscataway have lived in this area. We acknowledge the land upon which our church sits was taken from the Piscataway people, therefore, we are occupying Piscataway land and tidewaters. Acknowledge this with us by paying land tax/rent. Please email Pastor Ellen at ellenwitko@att.net for a payment link.

The United Church of Christ of Annapolis

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(410) 266-8596 x200

We give thanks to God that you could join us today!

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Soprano Scholarship Help Needed: The funds to continue supporting our soprano scholarship are running low and we are asking you to prayerfully consider donating to the fund. This will allow us to continue to support Kayla in her musical endeavors, as well as continue to be inspired by her gifts in worship. Donations of any amount are welcome. You can contact the church office or speak to our treasurer, Kathy Walker.

Missions Committee is collecting for the Anne Arundel Food Bank: The Food Bank is running very low on supplies. They are especially short of peanut butter and jelly (in plastic jars), 1 lb bags or boxes of rice, dried beans, and legumes, healthy snacks (granola bars, nuts), baby food and formula and nutrition shakes (like ensure or boost). A donation box will be in the Narthex.

Any questions please contact Laura Brown.

Shoe Collection: Lisa Clark will once again be collecting tennis shoes for the Got Sneakers campaign. Bring your new or used sneakers to the collection box in the narthex to reuse, recycle and raise money!

Book Collection: Similar to the shoe collection, bring your new or gently used books to the Narthex for collection. We will receive a small "reward" for the donations!

Pastor Hours: The pastor will observe days of rest on Tuesday and Friday. Appointments are available by contacting the pastor or the church office.

Home Communion: is available for those who are unable to attend church. Please contact pastor Ellen or the church office to make arrangements.

Fellowship Following Services: Please join us after the 10:30 service for a cup and conversation! The third Sunday potluck is on hiatus until the fall, however, birthdays will still be celebrated on the third Sunday of the month.

Pastoral Care: If you would like more information about pastoral care or arrange a meeting, please contact Rev. Ellen Witko at ellenwitko@att.net or (908)-425-6362.

Living the Questions Adult Study Group: The group meets on the first and third Thursday of every month at 10:30am. All are welcome. Meetings are currently online. For more information contact Kathy Walker.

Sunday School: is on summer break and will resume in the fall! Have a great summer!

Save the Date:

Watershed Stewards Academy Volunteers Needed!



Bioretention Clean-out

Invasive Species Removal and Trash/Debris Removal

United Church of Christ Annapolis

6 Carvel Circle, Edgewater, MD

Saturday, July 19, 8am

Please Bring: Gloves, Hand Tools, and Water

RSVP: bethpaquette@gmail.com

