

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ

Worship Celebration

September 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Everyone!



If you are visiting with us, and you are looking for a spiritual community...

where you will be loved, accepted, supported and affirmed regardless of your age, class, ability, race, ethnicity, gender identification or sexual orientation...where you will be encouraged and challenged to reflect on your beliefs, acknowledge your doubts, ask your questions, and grow in your faith...where God's desire for compassion, healing, reconciliation, justice and joy is preached...where you are given the opportunity to put your faith action through effective outreach ministries...then we hope to get to know you as a new friend.

**No matter who you are, or where you are in your life journey...
You are welcome here!**

Seeking to love all people ... growing in faith ...
working toward God's vision of justice, healing and joy.

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming/Creation Justice Congregation
Worship Celebration
September 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Prelude

The Gift to Be Simple

Wood

Call to Worship

One: This is the day that God has blessed us with.

All: Let us rejoice and be grateful for it.

One: Let us sing, listen, pray, and give thanks;

All: Knowing that where two or more are gathered, God is present.

One: Let us come before God with open hearts and minds;

All: Ready to receive God's grace and inspiration.

Hymn

From All That Dwell Below the Skies #8 (on p. 3)

Opening Prayer (together)

We gather together this day, O God, as an “anniversary people”. We gather with the memory of the events of two years ago on our hearts and minds.

We remember the uncertainty. We remember the frustration, and anger, and sadness. We remember the chaos - the chaos of wind and rain; the chaos of homes, and property, and lives disrupted; the chaos of where and how to go following those stormy days.

But we also gather together today, O God, as grateful people. Grateful for Your constant presence, comfort, strength, and guidance in those days, and in the days, months and now two years that followed. Grateful to and for each other for all the support and kindness shared.

As we were then, let us continue to be with each other and all Your people in every time.

Amen.

Music Meditation *On the Willows (from Godspell)* Schwartz

Kelsey Boyea, soloist

A Time of Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

(Please use the wording most meaningful to you.)

Invitation to Giving

Offertory Music *You Say* Daigle

Kelsey Boyea, soloist

***Presentation of Offering and Congregational Response**

(Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow #45)

*Praise God for love we all may share
Praise God for beauty everywhere
Praise God for hope of good to be
Praise God for truth that makes us free
Amen*

8 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Unison

1. From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre-a-tor's praise a-
 2. E - ter-nal are thy mer-cies, Lord, e - ter-nal truth at - tends thy

rise! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Let the Re - deem - er's
 word! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Thy praise shall sound from

name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev-ery tongue! Al-le - lu - ia!
 shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more! Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!
 Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719
 MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623;
 harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal*, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 88.44.88 w. alleluias

***Prayer of Dedication (together)**

We offer you now, Holy One, this part of all You have blessed us with. We offer it not because we have to, but because we want to. And we want to because You call us to bless others as we have been blessed. May it be so.

Amen.

Ministry of the Word Psalm 137:1-6 (on p.5)

(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

John 15:18-21 (on p. 5)

(New Century Version Translation)

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Psalm 137: 1-6

By the rivers of Babylon - there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.

On the willows there we hung up our harps.

For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!'

How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right-hand wither!

Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

John 15: 18-21

If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as it loves its own. But I have chosen you out of the world, so you don't belong to it. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: A servant is not greater than his master. If people did wrong to me, they will do wrong to you, too. And if they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours, too. They will do all this to you on account of me, because they do not know the One who sent me.

Message

Dr. Mark Boyea

Hymn

O Jesus, I Have Promised #473 (on p.7)

Blessing

Postlude

O Jesus, I Have Promised (improvisation)

***All who wish are welcome to stand.**



O Jesus, I Have Promised

473

1. O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;
 2. O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 3. O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend;
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be;

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 and, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

WORDS: John E. Bode, c. 1868
 MUSIC: Arthur H. Mann, 1881

ANGEL'S STORY
 76.76D

John Ernst Bode, English Anglican rector, wrote these words for the confirmation service of his three children.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

“Remembering is painful, it’s difficult, but it can be inspiring and it can give you wisdom.”

Paul Greengrass, English film director

“It is a full-time job being honest one moment at a time, remembering to love, to honor, to respect. It is a practice, a discipline, worthy of every moment.”

Jasmine Guy, American actress



ANNOUNCEMENTS

To Our Guests This Morning

If you are with us today for the first, or one of the first times, please let us know. Also, please take a moment to introduce yourself, or reintroduce yourself, to Rev. Mark. Our hope is to provide you with the most graceful welcome possible.

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is open Monday-Friday, from 9am-3pm.

Mark is normally on campus Tuesday-Thursday pending pastoral visits or off-site meetings. Please feel free to just “drop by” or make an appointment directly with him by email: mark@sanibelucc.org or text/phone at 908-477-5426.

Mackenzie Albert, our Director of Music, is normally on campus each Wednesday and some Fridays. Please make an appointment by phone or text at 203-517-5427.

Fellowship Time Update

Fellowship Time will resume today, Sunday, September 29. After Worship, please join us in Fellowship Hall to see our new kitchen countertops and enjoy refreshments and conversation.

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION RETURNS SOON!

Our first Spiritual Exploration Unit begins TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15!

“WIDOWS TO WARRIORS”

**Tuesdays: October 15, 22 and 29; November 12 and 19
7:00pm – 8:15pm on ZOOM**

During this five-week unit, we will explore the complex, multidimensional, inspiring, humorous and tragic lives of several of the women presented in the Hebrew Scriptures. From flawed heroes like Ruth and Rahab, to warriors like Deborah and Jael, we will examine what these foremothers of our spiritual tradition have to say to us in our time and place.

Each session will be sufficiently independent of the others that you need not be concerned with having to attend all of them in order to participate.

Bible Study

Bible Study will resume on Thursday, October 10, at 10:30am on Zoom. We expect to move to a combination of online and in person Bible Study before the end of the Fall.

From the Mission & Benevolence Committee

The Gladiolus Food Pantry says there is a need for paper towels and toilet paper, in addition to the usual canned foods, children's cereal, pasta and pasta sauce. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Floral Invitation

We invite you to contribute to the Floral Fund.

This fund is dedicated to preserving the memory of a loved one through the vibrant and uplifting presence of flowers. If you would like to honor a loved one by dedicating flowers to a Worship Celebration, please visit or contact the office.

Floral dedications will be featured in the weekly bulletin.



“Adopt a Sunday” Fellowship Hour

Please consider “Adopting a Sunday.” You can choose a date and mark it on your calendar to commit to serving during our Fellowship Time on that day. It is a wonderful way to contribute to our community and connect with others. Volunteering your time to help our spiritual community is a meaningful way to give back.

Dates available for October 2024: 10/6, 10/13, 10/20 and 10/27

If you would like to help prepare and serve refreshments for Fellowship Time after Worship on Sundays, please sign up on the sheet found on the table in the back of Fellowship Hall. It is easy, and assistance will be available if needed. Donations of light fare and/or help with serving or cleanup will be greatly appreciated.



Dinners for 6, 7 or 8

One of our most loved offerings is the social gatherings known as “Dinner for 6, 7 or 8”. If you would like to participate, please send your names, email addresses and phone numbers Shirley Akins at akinsteach@gmail.com. Dinners have ended for the season, but will resume with new groups in the fall.



Shell Point Men’s October Luncheon

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Men’s Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting **on Tuesday, October 8th at noon at the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common**. Please make reservations with Candy Atchison at JimAtch@aol.com or 561-714-4655.

Shell Point Women’s Group October Luncheon

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Women’s Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting **on Friday, October 11th at 11:30am at the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common**. Please make reservations with Emily Kletzien at emily.kletzien@gmail.com.

Ushers Needed

If you are interested in ushering for Sunday Worship, please contact Frank Palaia at flpalaiajr@cs.com for more information.

INTERESTED IN JOINING SCUCC???

If you are considering becoming a member of SCUCC, or would simply like to find out more about us, please let Rev. Mark know. After you and he discuss the expectations and, as the old commercial says, “the benefits of membership,” you and he can schedule a Sunday that works best for you to become an official part of the SCUCC community.



Like A Ride To Worship?

If you would like a ride to Sunday Worship from Shell Point or Cypress Cove, please contact the Church Office at office@sanibelucc.org **by noon on Thursday.**



Apple Products Instruction

October classes will cover: iPad, iPhone and Apple Watch X (10).

As previously stated, this is “The Beginning of a new Era of Apple Intelligence”, so come find out what it can do for you.

Class will be held on Thursday evening at 5 pm on October 17th and October 24th in Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested, please contact Bruce Findley, a registered Apple Developer at bruce.findley@gmail.com.

The cost for both sessions and two (2) handouts is \$30.



Assisting With Today's Worship Celebration

Liturgist: Neil Halleran

Ushers: Judy and Frank Palaia

Ministers: All Members and Friends of SCUCC

Moderator: Neal Halleran Vice Moderator: Kathy Y. Carter

Parish Nurse: Linda Convertine, R.N., B.S.N.

Music Director: Mackenzie Albert

Church Administrator: Jenny Chacon

Assistant Church Administrator: Tammy Flatley

Tech Team: Dr. Renee Rawe, April Boehnen,

Luke Crater, Andrew Riggs

Missionaries: Alex Maldonado-Lizardi & Xiomara Cintron-Garcia
in Colombia

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Ran Niehoff

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