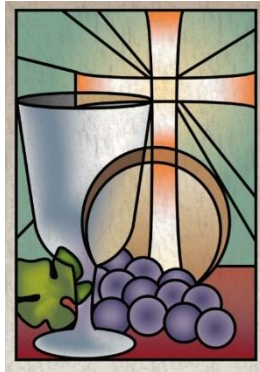


# *Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ*

## *Worship Celebration*

*May 4, 2025, 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 in 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!**

*An Open and Affirming / Creation Justice Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

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*  
*Third Sunday of Easter*  
*Ask the Minister*  
*Sacrament of Communion*  
*May 4, 2025, 10:00 a.m.*

## **Welcome**

### **Choral Introit**

*Make Us One, Lord*  
The SCUCC Choir

Cymbala

## **Call to Worship**

**One:** As we gather together in this Easter season;

**All:** Let us open our minds, hearts, and spirits to God as Easter people in  
Worship.

## **Hymn**

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart #113 (on p. 7)*

## **Opening Prayer (together)**

Holy One, we gather together this day with all our shared and private hopes, fears, joys and needs. In and through You, may we find peace of mind and strength of spirit. In and through You, may we find wisdom, courage and comfort.

May we embrace Your call for our lives, letting it transform us. May we trust in Your Easter promise that new life is always possible, if we remain open to learning and growing. And may Your spirit fill us and free us to offer our higher selves to You and others.

Amen.

## **Music Meditation**

*Because of Who You Are*  
The SCUCC Choir

## **A Time of Prayer with The Lord's Prayer**

(Please use the wording most meaningful to you.)

## **Invitation to Giving**

## **Offertory Music**

*To God Be the Glory*  
Mackenzie Albert, piano

Hayes

## **\*Presentation of Offering and Congregational Response**

*Your name, we bless, O Risen Lord*  
*And sing today with one accord*  
*The life laid down, the life restored*  
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.*

### **\*Prayer of Dedication (together)**

God of all we have, do and are, we offer back to You now this part of all You have blessed us with. May it be used to serve Your purposes for the sake of our sisters and brothers in need, near and far. And may it be used to help bring Your Easter promise of new life to the physically, emotionally and spiritually lost and forgotten.

Amen.

**Ministry of the Word      Psalm 118:14-17, 21-24, 28-29 (on p. 4 )**  
**(New Revised Standard Version Translation)**

## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### **Psalm 118:14-17, 21-24, 28-29**

The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.  
There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous.

The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

## **The Sacrament of Communion**

### **Introduction**

One: God is with us;

**All: In every moment of our lives.**

One: So let us lift up our hearts.

**All: Let us lift them up to our God.**

One: Let us present our lives to our God;

**All: Through all we do and say.**

### **The Words of Institution**

### **The Consecration**

### **Sharing God's Gifts**

### **The Community's Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give You thanks, O God, for calling us to this table of nourishment and healing for body, mind and spirit. May the sharing of this Holy Meal strengthen our faith, increase our love for You and one another, and give us the courage we need to go out into the world as Christ's disciples, inspired and supported by Your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

### **Hymn**

*As We Gather at Your Table #695 (on p. 8)*

**Blessing**

**Postlude**

*Our God Reigns*

Smith

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

## 113 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

F C E C Dm C F A7 Dm G7 C  
 1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart, re - joice, give thanks and sing;  
 2 Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,  
 3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,  
 4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,

F7 Bb Dsus D Dsus A7 D D Gm Dm Gm7 F C  
 your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.  
 raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.  
 send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.  
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe.

Refrain  
 N.C. C C E N.C. C E F F E Bb F C7 F  
 Re - joice, Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.

WORDS: Edward H. Plumptre (1821-1891), alt.  
 MUSIC: Arthur H. Messiter (1834-1916)

MARION  
 S.M.Ref.



## As We Gather at Your Table 695

Unison  
N.C. F B $\flat$   $\frac{B\flat}{C}$  F

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

N.C. F B $\flat$   $\frac{B\flat}{C}$  F

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

N.C. Am7 Dm Am7 Dm  $\frac{Am}{C}$  B $\flat$ 2 B $\flat$

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

$\frac{C7}{G}$  F Fmaj7 B $\flat$   $\frac{B\flat}{C}$  F

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

WORDS: Carl F. Daw, Jr. (1944-)

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company  
Music Arr. © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.D.

## ***FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION***

***“Spirit is the ability to face the uncertainty of the future, with curiosity and optimism. It is the belief that problems can be solved, differences resolved. But it can be blackened by fear and suspicion.”***

Bernard Beckett, New Zealander writer

***“The more I wonder, the more I love.”***

Alice Walker, American novelist and poet

***“Judge a person by their questions rather than by their answers.”***

Voltaire, French philosopher

# 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 re-introduce yourself to Rev. Mark. Our hope is to provide you with the most graceful welcome possible.

## **TODAY - “ASK THE MINISTER” SUNDAY!**

Today is our latest “*Ask the Minister Sunday*”. Instead of a Message this morning, Mark will address as many of your biblical, theological, spiritual and personal questions as time permits.

These regular “change ups” from our Sunday norm continue to be both informative and enjoyable experiences.



## **Office Hours**

**The Office is regularly open from 9am-3pm on Monday through Friday.**

Mark is generally 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](mailto: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.

## **SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION**

**Our most recent unit has concluded.**

The topic and schedule for our next unit are still being determined.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

**Bible Study will meet this Thursday, May 8.**

Each week, we explore the passages which will be part of that coming Sunday's Worship. These sessions are discussion based, with Mark guiding a structured conversation based on participants' questions, concerns and considerations of the text. The passage(s) to be looked at each week, as well as the necessary information for joining in, will be sent by email the day before.

## **From the Mission & Benevolence Committee**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's joint SCUCC/Bat Yam Food Drive. **April 17<sup>th</sup> was the last collection for the season.**

Please keep in mind that donations of any non-perishable food items and bath and kitchen paper products can still be dropped off at the church or left in the Narthex. Collected donations will benefit local neighbors in need through F.I.S.H. and the Gladiolus Food Pantry.

Just a reminder, if you would like to make monetary donations to the Food Pantry, please address your check to SCUCC and include Food Pantry on the memo line.

## **Booked For Lunch 2025**

**Due to schedules changing, the Booked for Lunch session planned for this Thursday, May 8th has been canceled.** We will let you know when dates are set for the Fall.

## **Summer Fellowship Time Volunteers**

**We need your help. Please consider volunteering your time to serve during our Fellowship Time after Worship. It's a wonderful way to contribute to our community, connect with others, and give back to our spiritual home.**

**Select a Sunday and mark it on your calendar! You'll find a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of Fellowship Hall. Serving is easy, and help will be available if needed.**

**Your time, treats, or donations will be deeply appreciated, making our gatherings warm and welcoming for everyone. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve and strengthen our community!**



## **Become a Liturgist**

We are asking for readers this Summer for our Sunday Worship Celebrations. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Sharon Hannon at [sbkhannon@gmail.com](mailto:sbkhannon@gmail.com). All members are welcome to become Liturgists.

### **Shell Point Women's Group May Luncheon**

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Women's Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting **this Friday, May 9 at 11:30am. The group will meet at the two round tables located outside of the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common.** Please make reservations with Emily Kletzien at [emily.kletzien@gmail.com](mailto:emily.kletzien@gmail.com).

### **Shell Point Men's Group May Luncheon**

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Men's Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting **on Tuesday, May 13 at noon at the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common.** Please make reservations with Bruce Findley at [bruce.findley@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.findley@gmail.com).

### **Dinners for 6, 7 or 8**

One of our most loved offerings is the social gatherings known as "Dinner for 6, 7 or 8". The season has come to an end. If you would like more information, please contact Shirley Akins at [akinsteach@gmail.com](mailto:akinsteach@gmail.com).

### **Ushers Needed**

Please contact Frank Palaia if you would like more information, or to be added to the contact list to be an Usher during our Worship Celebrations. Send an email to [flpalaiajr@cs.com](mailto:flpalaiajr@cs.com).

### **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 our Sunday Worship Celebration from Shell Point or Cypress Cove, please contact the Church Office at [office@sanibelucc.org](mailto:office@sanibelucc.org) by **noon on Thursday**.



## The Santiva Islanders, Cardio & Strength Classes

Please join Mahnaz Bassir at SCUCC for cardio & strength. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Fellowship Hall. **During the summer there will be only one class per day, starting at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.**



## **Assisting With Today's Worship Celebration**

Liturgist: Paul Roth

Ushers: Jerry & LaMoyne Ebner

Ministers: All Members and Friends of SCUCC

Moderator: Kathy Y. Carter Vice Moderator: Frank Palaia

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, Luke Crater, Victor Santana, Kirsten Smith

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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