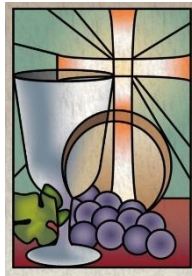


Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ

Worship Celebration

February 2, 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 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
"Ask the Minister" Sunday
Sacrament of Communion
February 2, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Choral Introit

Sanctuary
The SCUCC Choir

Call to Worship

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

All: **Let us open our hearts, minds and spirits to God and each other in worship.**

Hymn

Praise to the Living God #18 (on p. 6)

Opening Prayer (together)

Holy One, we gather together this day with all of 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 promise that the possibility for changed hearts and minds is never exhausted. May we find our sense of dignity and worth in being Your daughters and sons, through the divine spark You have placed in each of us. And may Your spirit fill us and free us to offer our highest selves to You and others.

Amen.

Music Meditation

All Are Welcome (on p. 8)

The SCUCC Choir

Congregation Joins in for Verses 2 and 3

A Time of Prayer with The Lord's Prayer

(Please use the wording most meaningful to you.)

Invitation to Giving

Offertory Music

Song of Praise

Stickles

***Presentation of Offering and Congregational Response**

(Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, #48)

*To God, all glorious heavenly light
To Christ, revealed in earthly light
To God the Spirit, now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise*

***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 near and far. May it be used to lift up the physically, emotionally and spiritually lost and forgotten, so they know that You - and we - are with them.

Amen.

Ministry of the Word

Psalm 84 (on p. 4)

(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

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 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #404 (on p. 7)*

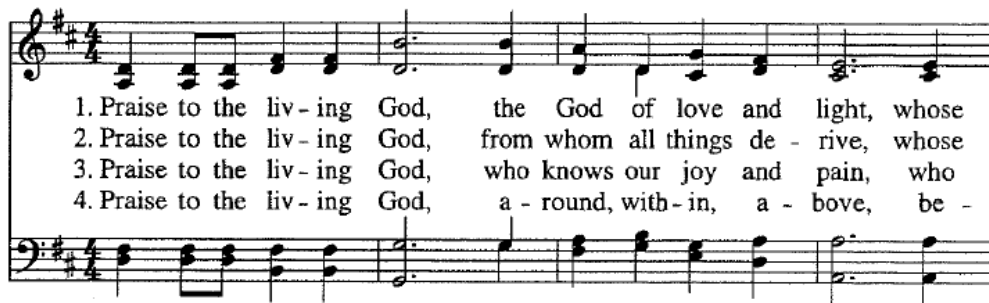
Blessing

Postlude

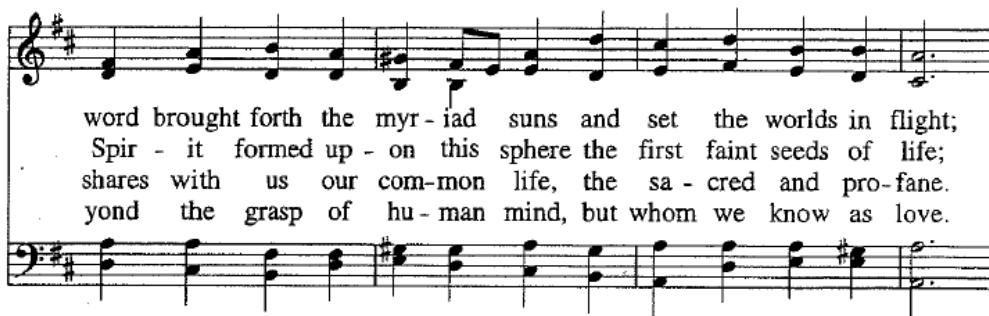
Trumpet Call

Stanley

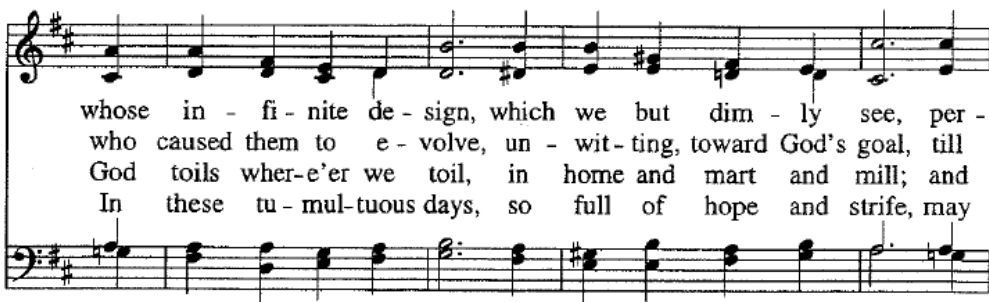
Praise to the Living God



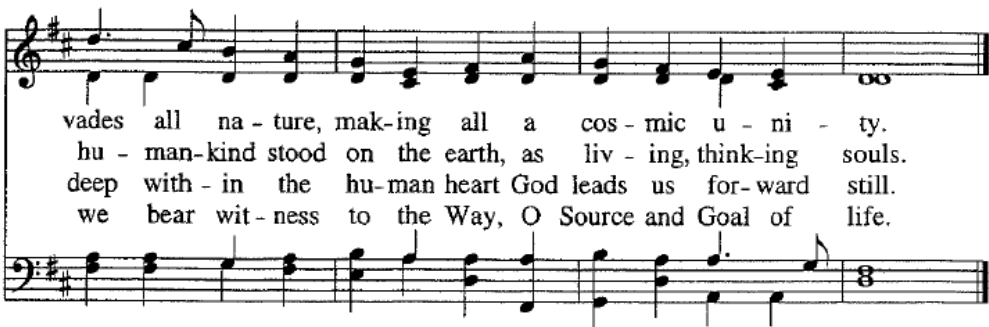
1. Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, whose
 2. Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, whose
 3. Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, who
 4. Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, per -
 who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, till
 God toils wher - e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; and
 In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, may



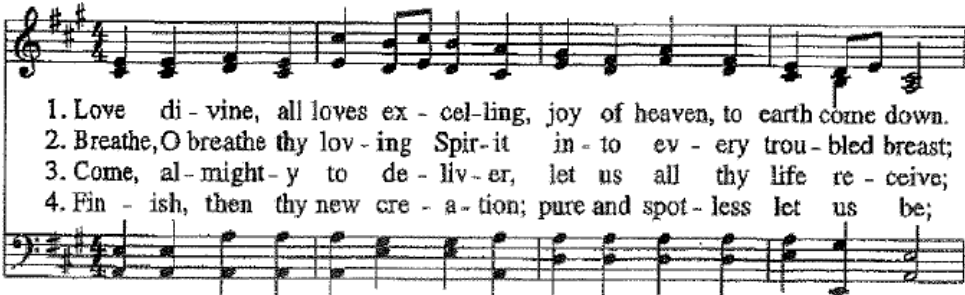
vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man - kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

WORDS: Curtis Beach, 1966, alt.
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868


DIADEMATA
 SMD

Like many English Anglican organists and composers, George Elvey received his early training as a cathedral choir boy.

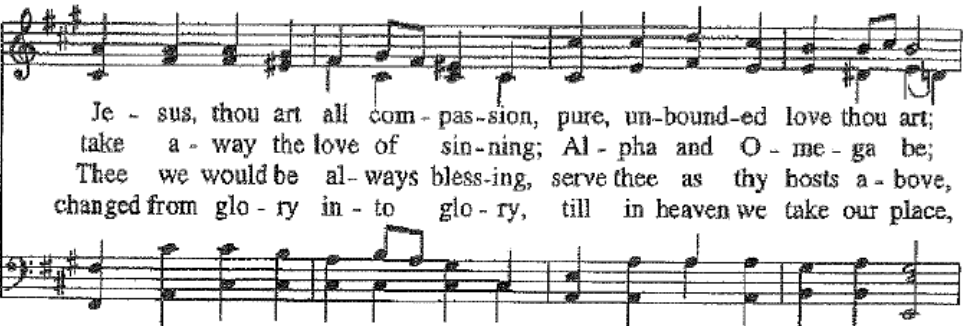
Words © 1966 Estate of Curtis Beach



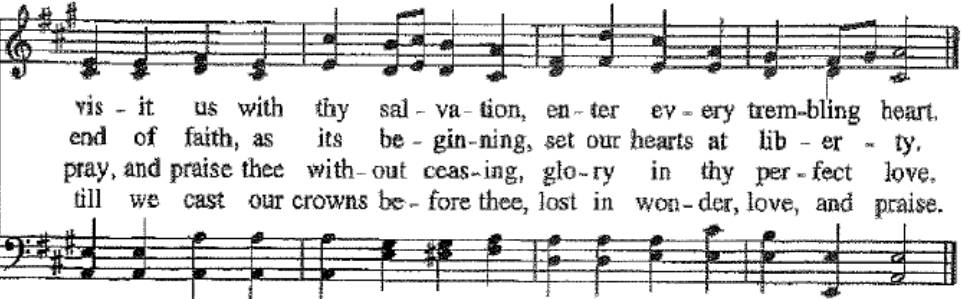
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, to earth come down.
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom - ised rest;
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1855

BEECHER
 87.87D

This hymn is sung by every major denomination. Charles Wesley, brother of John, wrote the text as a spiritual parody of a Dryden poem.

All Are Welcome



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
 Bear the in - age of God's face; Let us
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

“We get wise by asking questions, and even if they are not answered, we get wise, for a well-packed question carries its answer on its back as a snail carries it shell.”

James Stephens, Irish poet

“Curiosity is what keeps us open to a sense of hope.”

Carrie Brownstein, American rock musician and actor

“Blessed are the curious. Blessed are those who do not rely upon blind faith, who do not settle for half truths. Blessed are those who pry and poke and snoop and explore.”

Philip Gulley, American author

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.

“ASK THE MINISTER” TODAY – FEBRUARY 2

Our next *“Ask the Minister Sunday”* is **TODAY, Sunday, February 2**. 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 Church Office is regularly open from 9am-3pm on Monday through Friday.

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.

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

Our current unit continues this week!

“Church on Sunday, Citizen on Monday”

Tuesdays: February 4, 11 and 25

7:00-8:15pm on Zoom



In conjunction with the start of a New Year as well as a time of government transition, this five-week unit explores what it means for us to live as citizens who are Christians in a nation that is religiously and spiritually diverse.

Our sessions will be grounded in the work of Professor Emeritus of Religion and Christian ethicist Eric Mount, and will consider a variety of topics, such as economics, governance and the environment, with an emphasis on Mount’s “Three C’s” of *Covenant*, *Community* and the *Common Good*.

Each session will be sufficiently independent to accommodate those who are unable to participate in all of them. We hope you will consider joining in on all or any of these timely and needed discussions.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will meet this Thursday, February 6, at 10:30am on Zoom.

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.

MUSIC "NOTES"



Thank you to Suzanne Bennett for artistic help with signs and other visual beautification for our music events. There is always something new to be done, and we appreciate all your artistic input. Many thanks!



The Choir Welcomes New Members!

Our Choir has been growing this fall, with several new members already, and is looking forward to welcoming even more singers.

If you enjoy singing, or have always wanted to sing, but never quite managed it, this is the perfect time to join in. Our group rehearses at 4:30 PM on Wednesday afternoons, and often goes out to eat at Jerry's afterward.

Why not stop by and see what it's like? You are also welcome to call or text Mackenzie with any questions at 203-517-5427.

From the Mission & Benevolence Committee

Please keep in mind that SCUCC and Bat Yam Temple have a monthly Food and Paper Products Drive every third Wednesday, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Church Parking Driveway. Please drop off donations of any non-perishable food items and bath and kitchen paper products. Collected donations will benefit local neighbors in need through F.I.S.H. and the Gladiolus Food Pantry.

If you are interested in assisting with this effort, please contact Ed Hannon, Mission and Benevolence Committee Member: (239) 240-7524.



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

Fellowship Time

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. If interested, please contact Mary Cavendish at 304-673-4495.



Here's how you can help:

1. **Sign Up to Serve** – Select a Sunday and mark it on your calendar! You'll find a sign-up sheet on the table at the front of Fellowship Hall. Serving is easy, and help will be available if needed.
2. **Bring a Treat** – If you love to bake or have a favorite snack to share, consider bringing it along to make our Fellowship Time even more special. Beverages are also welcome.
3. **Contribute to Fellowship Time** – If serving isn't for you, a donation is a meaningful way to support this cherished time together.

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!



Shell Point Men's Group February Luncheon

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Men's Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting **Tuesday, February 11 at noon at the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common**. Please make reservations with Bruce Findley @ bruce.findley@gmail.com.

Shell Point Women's Group February Luncheon

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Women's Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting on **Friday, February 14th at 11:30am**. **The group will meet at the two round tables outside the double doors of the Palm Grill**. Please make reservations with Emily Kletzien at emily.kletzien@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". If you would like to participate, please send your names, email addresses and phone numbers Shirley Akins at akinsteach@gmail.com.



Ushers Needed

Please contact Inky Meng to volunteer as an usher during our Sunday Worship Service. Inky can be reached at inkymeng@hotmail.com.

Interested in being a Liturgist?

If you are interested in being a Liturgist, dates are open for March, April and May. Please send an email to skbhannon@aol.com with all of the dates you are available to read, and she will contact you in return.

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.**

Gentle Yoga with Grethe

Join Grethe in Fellowship Hall on Thursdays at 10:45am for Gentle Yoga.

Please arrive early to check-in.

The Santiva Islanders, Cardio & Strength Classes

Please join Mahnaz Bassir at SCUCC for cardio & strength. Classes are scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Fellowship Hall. Due to the popularity of the class and its instruction, two classes are now available:

9:30-10:30am or 11:00am-12:00pm.

Mahnaz has long been a favorite exercise instructor on Sanibel. Come find out why. You'll meet friends and have fun, all while getting and staying fit.

The class starts off with light to moderate aerobics, followed by strength and balance exercises, and concluding with stretching. Please bring plenty of water and a towel. Participants may also want to bring light weights to use during the strength portion. Exercises are done standing so there is no need for a mat.

Come try a class out for free.

After that, the cost for Santiva Islander Members is \$5 per class/\$60 per calendar month. The cost for non-members is \$10 per class/\$120 per calendar month.

An annual Santiva Islander Membership is \$25.

You can join online or at the door.



Gala Benefit Pass to All Events \$250
February 28 Private Home Cocktail Party at 6:00 pm
March 1 Gala Concert Ticket at 7:30pm and Afterglo Reception.
To order call or text 404-226-3842, or purchase online to reserve Gala Passes.
Passes limited. Expected to sell out.

For more information regarding the concert schedule and tickets,
please go to their website at:

<https://sanibelmusicfestival.org/>

Assisting With Today's Worship Celebration

Liturgist: Barbara Cecala

Ushers: Marcel Saghir and Bob VanTassel

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

2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, Florida 33957

Telephone: (239) 472-0497

Website: sanibelucc.org

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through PayPal.

