

Venice United Church of Christ

September 7, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

“Learning to Count”

United in Christ’s love,

A just world for all



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This bulletin is available on the App.
The Venice UCC App is available on
Google and in the Apple Store.
Look for the icon at the left.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sacrament of Holy Communion September 7, 2025

Singing Prelude

Change My Heart, O God

Espinosa

Sing Twice

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

Welcome and Announcements

We Approach God's Presence

Meditation/Bringing in the Light of Christ

Search Me, O God

Maori Melody

Responsive Call to Worship

Philemon, adpt by Dickason

Sara Stafford

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator.

May we always give thanks to God.

Grace to you and peace from Jesus, our Anointed Messiah.

May our faithful reflection of God's love

spread farther than we could ever imagine.

Grace to you and peace from Jesus our brother and friend.

May we welcome each other as Christ welcomes us.

***Hymn**

I Come with Joy (inside back page)

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

O Beloved Creator, You have searched me and known me!

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You discern my innermost thoughts.

You find me on the journey and guide my steps;
You know my strengths and my weaknesses.
Even before words rise up in prayer,
Lo, You have already heard my heart call.

**You encompass me with love where'er I go,
Your strength is my shield.
Such sensitivity is too wonderful for me;
it is high; boundless gratitude is my soul's response.**

You formed my inward being,
You knit me together in my mother's womb.

**We praise You, for You are to be revered and adored.
Your mysteries fill us with wonder!**

More than I know myself do You know me;
my essence was not hidden from You,
When I was being formed in secret,
intricately fashioned from the
elements of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;
in your records were written
every one of them,

**The days that were numbered for me,
when as yet there was none of them.
How precious to me are your creations,
O Blessed One!
How vast is the sum of them!
Who could count your innumerable gifts and blessings?
At all times, You are with me.**

***Words of Grace**

adpt by Merrill

Who could count God's innumerable gifts and blessings?
At all times, God is with us.
Thank be to God! Amen

***Response**

Search Me

MacGregor

Sue Jack will sing first, followed by congregation

**Search me, O God. Search me, O God.
Search me, O God, You know my deepest ways.**

We Encounter God in the Word

First Reading

Philemon 1-21

Common English Bible

The Word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Search Me, O God

Newton/Beethoven

Susan Jack, soloist

Second Reading

Luke 14:25-33

NRSVue

The Word of our Messiah. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Learning to Count”

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

We Respond to God’s Grace

Prayer Concerns and Sharing Gratitude

Silent Prayers

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer (sung)

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom 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.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity

(Offering plates are found by each doorway for your use.)

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**Holy One, bless these offerings. May the work of our hands and
the gifts we bring be a blessing. We dedicate them to your building
of your vision for all of humanity. Amen.**

Invitation to Holy Communion

Christ has invited everyone to join together in this holy feast.

**We gather with sisters and brothers and friends
from every time zone
around this beautiful sphere God created
and that we call earth.**

As today's sunlight inches across the land and sea, we prepare our Lord's table so that
all may come, all may eat, and all might be nourished by the bread Christ has offered
that gives us life.

**We gather to eat the bread and drink of the cup
that fills us with God's abundant love,
that reforms us to be a reflection
of God's original blessing, and
that reconnects us to God, God's creation,
and each other.**

*(The ministers and servers will prepare the elements;
the congregation is then invited to come
and receive the bread and the cup.
If you cannot come but wish to receive,
the servers will come to you.)*

Communion Meditation

Hallelujah (Part 1)

Cohen

We Go to Share God's Love

***Hymn**

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People (back page)

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Sending Blessing**

Threefold Amen

Danish

Postlude

Hallelujah (Part 2)

Cohen

**Please remain seated in silence for the Postlude as the
Light of Christ is carried into the world.
The worship has ended; our service begins.**

Worship materials are taken from
Merrill, Nan C. *Psalms for Praying*. "Psalm 139";
John van de Laar;
sacridese.com

Supporting Our Service Today

Acolyte: Allison Rowe **Liturgist:** Sara Stafford **Song Leader:** Susan Jack
Communion Stewards: Barbara and Bob Zittel, Rev. David Jack
Welcome Table: Patty Fjetland **Greeter:** Wendy Seeley
Head Usher: Rob Dickason **Usher Team:** Victoria Augustine,
George Ikeda, Char Raitt, Barbara and Bob Zittel

Technology Team

(Live Streaming, Camera, and Sound Technicians)
Gary Woodrum, Debra Mosely, Maria Groody,
David Jack, Linda Newton, Wally Davis, Patty Fjetland

The **Lord's Table** was decorated by Victoria Augustine

The **Sanctuary Flowers** are given by
Loren Matasek and Helen Helgren
in Celebration of Their Anniversary
and by Marian Shern

The **Church Sign** was changed by Faye Newton and Lisa Sclafani

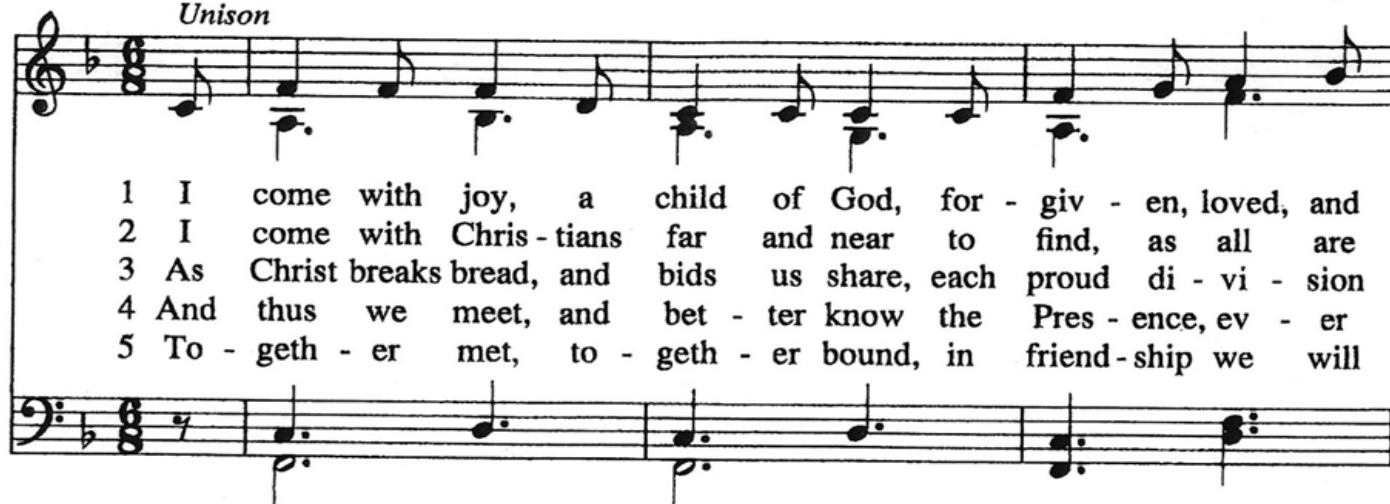
Sunday Librarian: Toni Yahres

Fellowship Time: Women's Fellowship

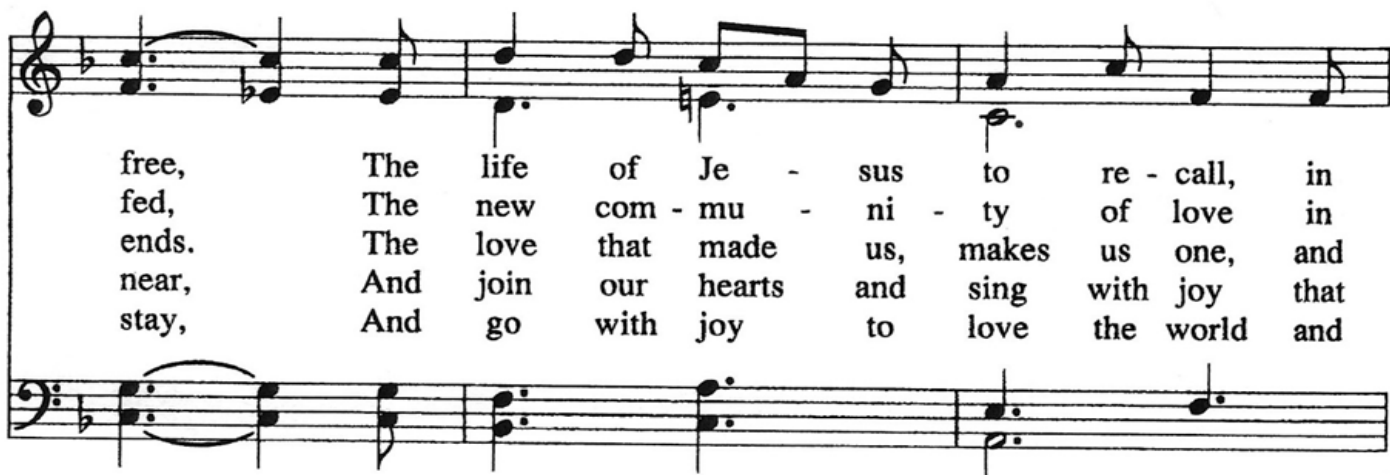
I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

Unison



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will



free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that
 stay, And go with joy to love the world and



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.
 live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

One of Brian Wren's most widely published texts, this hymn was originally written to "sum up a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. It tries to use simple words to suggest important theological themes."

Tune: DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977

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You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

D (allow to ring off)

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain
 Marty Haugen, 1986

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**If you need help with the App, see Sharon Leidheiser
or Maria Groody during Fellowship Time.**

**If you do not receive the Connect, our weekly newsletter,
please call the office and let Barb Quinn know. She will add you to the list.**

Would you like to donate to VUCC online?

**Use your Smart Phone to scan the QR code below, and it will take you
directly to our donations page. It is really easy!**



Senior Minister

Rev. Barbara Dickason

Music Staff

Barbara Quinn: *Music Director*

Lynda Weston: *Bella Handbell Director*

Other Staff

Gary Leidheiser: *Custodian*

Barb Quinn: *Office Assistant*

The church office is open M-Th, 9-1.

Email will be monitored daily when the office is closed.

Pastor Barb's day off is on Friday. Please reach out in case of Emergency.

All other emails received over the weekend will be answered the first of the week.

**There are new sign-up sheets for Flowers and for
Fellowship Time Hosts on the clipboard table in Naar Hall.
Please consider helping out in one of these, or other, areas.**

We need you!

Who Are You?

**If you do not currently have a name tag, please sign the list on the Welcome Table in the
Narthex. The list will also be available in Naar Hall after worship.**

Do you need a replacement name tag? Please sign that same list.

This Week at a Glance

Monday, September 8

12:00 PM SpiritFed!

Noon Bible Study via Zoom (link below)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83576594637?pwd=U2024sKmOPiy3CyMqV4OarYUtofaom.1>

Meeting ID: 835 7659 4637

Passcode: 913882

(The easiest way to connect is to use the link in the Connect.)

3:30 PM Pastoral Relations Committee—Parlor

Tuesday, September 9

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

10:00 AM Mission Committee—Parlor

3:00 PM Game Group—Parlor

Wednesday, September 10

9:00 AM - Noon Library Hours

10:00 AM Bible Study—CR

11:00 AM RCSSC—Naar Hall

Thursday, September 11

1:00 PM Worship Committee—Parlor

Friday, September 12

8:30 AM Men's Weekly Coffee—Panera

9:00 AM Knit Wits—Parlor

Sunday, September 14

9:00-9:45 AM Library Hour

10:00 AM Worship in situ and virtual

11:00-11:15 AM Library Time

11:00 AM Fellowship Time

Coming Dates/Events (A Sampling)

6:30 PM, Wednesday, September 24, Choir Rehearsals Begin

4:00 PM, Thursday, November 6, Handbell Rehearsals Begin

Sunday, November 9, New Member Sunday and Mission Market

Sunday, November 16, after worship, Basket Auction