



Venice United Church of Christ

September 14, 2025

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

“Ninety-Nine”

United in Christ’s love,

A just world for all



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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 14, 2025

Singing Prelude

Yes, God Is Real

Kenneth Morris, 1942; alt.

Refrain



Yes, God is real, real in my soul; yes, God is real for God has
loved and made me whole; God's love for me is like pure
gold, yes, God is real for I can feel God in my soul.

This gospel song by Kenneth Morris is considered his most successful composition. It has become a standard in many African-American churches, and has been translated into twenty-four languages. Morris is also known for his musical arrangements, which number more than 3,000.

Tune: YES, GOD IS REAL 8.8.8.12. with refrain
Kenneth Morris, 1942

CCLI License #11176734

Welcome and Announcements

We Approach God's Presence

Meditation/Bringing in the Light of Christ

My Shepherd Is the Living God

Southern Harmony, 1835

Responsive Call to Worship

Wendy Seeley

When the lost are found, **there is joy!**

When hope overcomes despair, **there is joy!**

When we seek and find God's faithfulness, **there is joy!**

Praise to God who is present to us through Christ Jesus!

Praise to God who is present to us through one another!

***Hymn**

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise (back page)

***Prayer of Lament for Transformation and New Life**

based on *Psalms 14*

Which of us has not hurt someone this week?

Which of us has not spoken or thought ill of a sister or brother in Christ?

Which of us has failed to do good when given the chance?

Which of us? All of us and each of us.

But Christ came to show us a better way, so I invite you to join me

as we offer our prayers to God, saying:

Divine Love, God of all that is,

Sometimes in our foolishness we say, "There is no power in Love,"

**forgetting that when we ignore Love we ignore You. In our solitary
ignorance, we end up hurting ourselves and those we try to help.**

**Many of us have been led astray, choosing to be ruled by greed and power
rather than by Your wisdom and generosity. We laugh as we watch our
leaders devour people and nations as if they were bread.**

**Transform us, O God. Remind us that Love's friend is Truth and in Truth
all who seek Love's way will be set free. O, that our hearts might wrestle
with angels! O, that we might rejoice in the abundance of Love's gifts!**

***Words of Grace**

Love looks into the heart of every person, of every community,

to see if any act with wisdom,

if any seek to walk with Love.

For all who walk in Truth and seek Love's Way,

united and reconciling with each other

are woven into a tapestry of joy! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Response**

Weave (sing twice)

Crow

**Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together, together in love.**

We Encounter God in the Word

Contemporary Reading

“Inflation”

by Amy GSA Brooks

God is still speaking. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Spirit Song

Wimber

Congregation please join on refrain:
**Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.**

Sacred Reading

Luke 15:1-10

the Message

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

Sermon

“Ninety-Nine”

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

We Respond to God’s Grace

Prayer Concerns and Sharing Gratitude

Silent Prayers

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Musical Response

Amazing Grace

Newton

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.**

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**

**Generous God,
We are filled with gratitude with Joy, for each and every day you invite us to help
you set the world right. May all the gifts that we offer today be multiplied in ways
that glorify You. Amen.**

We Go to Share God's Love

***Hymn**

I've Got Peace Like a River

Spiritual

**I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. (Repeat)**

**I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. (Repeat)**

**I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul. (Repeat)**

**I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor in my soul. (Repeat)**

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Sending Blessing**

Go in Peace

White

**Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.**

Postlude

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Shelley/arr. Peery

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

Another Scroll: Defiant Readings for Lectionary Year C, by Amy Brooks G.S.A.;

Dressed for Action: Service Prayers for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

Supporting Our Service Today

Acolyte: Allison Rowe **Liturgist:** Wendy Seeley

Song Leaders: Jeff Cook and Phillip Munsey

Welcome Table: Char Raitt **Greeter:** Chet Hamlin

Head Usher: Nancy Bennett **Usher Team:** Sue Atkinson, Sandy Barrie,
Jim Daugherty, Nancy Knudson, Howard Taylor, Kausie White

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 A Friend of VUCC

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

Sunday Librarian: Helen Markus

Fellowship Time: Sharon and Gary Leidheiser

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.

If you need help with the App, see 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!**



This Week at a Glance

Monday, September 15

11:00 Tech Team

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.)

Tuesday, September 16

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

4:00 PM Vision Team—Parlor

Wednesday, September 17

9:00 AM - Noon Library Hours

10:00 AM Bible Study—CR

11:30 AM Finance Team—Parlor

1:00 PM Cut-Ups—CR

Thursday, September 18

4:00 PM Baby Basics—Naar Hall

Friday, September 19

8:30 AM Men's Weekly Coffee—Panera

Saturday, September 20

10:30 AM VADC—Naar Hall

Sunday, September 21

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6



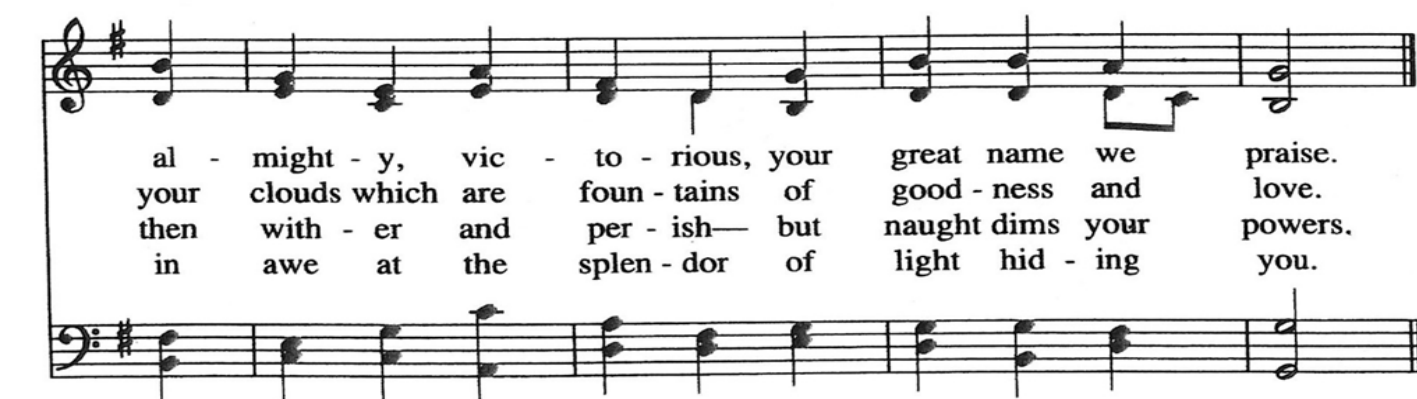
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839
 CCLI # 11176734