

**WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*August 3, 2025 Eleven o'clock in the Morning*

*Website: 1stucc.org Facebook: First United Church of Christ-Salisbury*

*Office Telephone: 704-633-2723*

*First UCC's Mission Statement*

***"To grow in faith, love and fellowship as we serve God and all of our community."***

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Lay Reader

**Transition Team Update**

Greg Alcorn

**Call to Worship**

Lay Reader and Congregation

Leader: Holy One in our midst,

**ALL: we seek to answer your call.**

Leader: As You freely offer Your love to us,

**ALL: we seek to love one another, forging bonds of compassion and tenderness.**

Leader: Holy One, we celebrate Your forgiveness and grace.

**ALL: We follow You, God of mercy and compassion. Amen.**

**†Hymn: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God***

Blue Hymnal No. 27

**†Prayer of Confession**

Lay Reader and Congregation

Leader: Eternal God, Maker of the skies above,  
lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people,  
unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,

**ALL: you are present among us.**

Leader: O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul within all souls, in all we touch, in all we meet,

**ALL: you are present among us.**

Leader: As bearers of your image, we come to be reshaped;

**ALL: dependent on your mercy, we ask to be made new.**

Leader: For the right roads we avoided traveling, and the kindly words we refused to share; for the false gods who received our worship and the true selves we have starved of love...God, by your grace,  
**ALL: forgive us.**

Leader: For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly, and the promises which we never kept; for the careless use of our time and money and the lame excuses we should never have made, God, by your grace,  
**ALL: forgive us.**

Leader: For all we should be and all we can amend, God, in your love,  
**ALL: renew us.**

Leader: For all you have in store for us and all you may demand of us, God, in your love,  
**ALL: prepare us.**

Leader: For the life of the world and the love of its people, God, in your love,  
**ALL: commit us.**

From the Iona Abbey Worship Book, 2017

### †Silent Reflections

*(a short period of silence is observed for silent reflections)*

#### †Kyrie: *O Tender God Have Mercy*

O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us  
O living Christ, have mercy, for you will heal us.  
O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us,  
For you are for us.

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### †Our Assurance of God's Pardon

Rev. Kerri Miller

#### †The Gloria Patri: *I Come With Joy*

I come with joy, a child of God,  
Forgiven, loved and free,  
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,  
In love laid down for me.

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#### †Hymn: *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Blue Hymnal No. 163

## Scripture Readings

Lay Reader

Hosea 11:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

**Leader:** This is a word of God.

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

## Sermon

Rev. Kerri Miller

## †An Affirmation of Faith

## The UCC Statement of Faith

**ALL:** We believe in You, O God, the Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to Your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in Your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by Your righteous will, declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death, and reconciling the world to Yourself.

You bestow upon us Your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into Your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be Your servant in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world, and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at His table, to join Him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust You forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, Your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in Your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto You. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Rev. Kerri Miller

Leader: May the Spirit of God be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

## The Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Kerri Miller

### The Lord's Prayer

(debts, debtors)

#### Prayer Response: ***Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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## Offertory Invitation

Lay Reader

Leader: Let us now receive our morning offering.

### Offertory

#### †Doxology: ***Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow***

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia

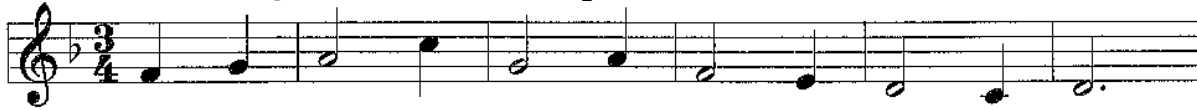
Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-715560 United Methodist Hymnal

## †Blessing

Lay Reader

Leader: Almighty and Loving God, thank you for blessings of this past week and your gracious blessings shown to us as your church and people of faith and love. Use these gifts in ministry and mission to bless the lives of others. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

## †Communion Hymn: *The Summons*



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



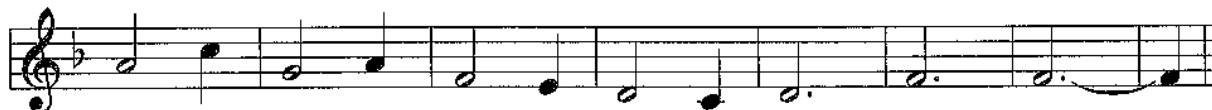
your name? \_\_\_\_ Will you go where you don't know and  
 your name? \_\_\_\_ Will you care for cruel and kind and  
 your name? \_\_\_\_ Will you set the pris - oners free and  
 your name? \_\_\_\_ Will you quell the fear in - side and  
 my name. \_\_\_\_ Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? \_\_\_\_ Will you let my love be  
 nev - er be the same? \_\_\_\_ Will you risk the hos - tile  
 nev - er be the same? \_\_\_\_ Will you kiss the lep - er  
 nev - er be the same? \_\_\_\_ Will you use the faith you've  
 nev - er be the same. \_\_\_\_ In your com - pa - ny I'll



shown, \_\_\_\_ will you let my name be known, \_\_\_\_ will you  
 stare \_\_\_\_ should your life at - tract or scare? \_\_\_\_ Will you  
 clean, \_\_\_\_ and do such as this un - seen, \_\_\_\_ and ad -  
 found \_\_\_\_ to re - shape the world a - round, \_\_\_\_ through my  
 go \_\_\_\_ where your love and foot - steps show. \_\_\_\_ Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me? \_\_\_\_  
 let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me? \_\_\_\_  
 mit to what I mean in you and you in me? \_\_\_\_  
 sight and touch and sound in you and you in me? \_\_\_\_  
 move and live and grow in you and you in me. \_\_\_\_

# **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

## **The Invitation to the Table and Blessing**

Rev. Kerri Miller

### **Sung Response: *The Gifts of God***

The gifts of God for the people of God!

Come now, for all is prepared.

The gifts of God for the people of God!

The Gospel is among us!

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Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

## **Sharing the Elements**

Rev. Kerri Miller

All are invited to come forward for communion this morning. There are gluten free crackers or bread offered. Please dispose of your cup before returning to your pew.

## **Special Music**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Lay Reader and Congregation

**ALL:** We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### **†Hymn: *Take My Life and Let It Be***

Blue Hymnal No. 393

## **Benediction**

Rev. Kerri Miller

## **Postlude**

### **Assisting in Today's Worship**

***Rev. Kerri Miller***, Guest Pastor

***Nathan Bowman***, Music Director/Organist

***Phyllis Little***, Lay Reader

We welcome Rev. Kerri Miller to worship this morning. Rev. Miller graduated from Wake Forest School of Divinity in May 2018. She is ordained in the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. Kerri currently works as a hospice chaplain and bereavement counselor. She enjoys writing, photography, singing, energy work and planning a return trip to the Isle of Iona.



Scan the QR Code with your camera to donate to First UCC.

### **In Our Thoughts and Prayers**

Desiree Artz, Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Rev. David Crook, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Maggie Derby (great granddaughter of Jim Weaver), John Drye (Ann Teague's cousin), Emily Faust, Jim Lyerly, John Marion, Shirley McNeil, Eddie Meeker, Doris Miller, Dan Morgan, Patsy Paxton, Paul Paxton, Cathy Robbins, Glenda Shrewsbury, Patty & Mark Shuping and family, Tom Troutman, Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward, Don Whitfield, Janette Yost. ***If you know of anyone who should be added or removed from our prayer list, let the office know.***

## Announcements

### Monday, August 4

Office Closed

3:00 p.m..... Transition Team Meeting in Fellowship Hall

5:00 p.m..... Mission Committee Meeting in Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, August 5

6:30 p.m..... Circle 6 Meeting in Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, August 6

5:30 p.m..... WOW Wednesday Bible Study

7:00 p.m..... Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, August 10

11:00 a.m..... Worship with Rev. Kerri Miller

4:00 p.m..... Property Committee Meeting

***WOW Wednesday Bible Study*** begins on Wednesday, August 6 at 5:30 p.m. We will be discussing the Book of Acts. Please bring a shareable snack.

The indoor church-wide yard sale is set for Saturday, August 16 from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please bring donated items to the church during office hours and leave on the stage in the fellowship hall. **THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING ITEMS IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 10 AT 1:00 P.M.** Contact Carolyn Cline or the Church Office for more information. Proceeds to benefit First UCC.

If you have questions or suggestions for the Transition Team, we invite you to contact one of the members. Concerns and suggestions are welcome at any time.

Don Whitfield

Phyllis Little

Shirley McNeil

Greg Alcorn

Ken Clapp

Carolyn Cline

Lynn Bernhardt

Dan Mikkelsen

Mark Schiemann

Larry Bolick

Rev. Anne Tambling