

August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



“America is made of different races and different religions, but we're all co-travelers on the spaceship Earth and must respect and help each other along the way.”
Stan Lee

Welcome

Gathering Music

Meditation
St. Jay Jazz Quartet

Antonio Carlos Jobim

Prelude

Falling Grace

Steve Swallow

Call to Worship *inspired by Psalm 124— Lisa Barfield*

*We say responses in **boldface***

Blessed be the Holy One. If it had not been God on our side—the people proclaim!

With God on our side, we find our help in the name of the Holy One!

Blessed be the Holy One, who draws us from aimlessness, despair, and bitterness.

With God on our side, we find purpose, hope, and peace.

*Blessed be the Holy One, who calls us to love one another—
neighbors, enemies, family and friends.*

With God on our side, we find compassion, grace, and mercy for one another.

Blessed be the Holy One!

↑ **Opening Song**

Come, and fill our hearts

Jacques Berthier

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,

You alone, O Lord, are holy,

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!

↑ **Invocation** — *Lisa Barfield*

We say this together

Living God, you draw us from the waters that offer both life and death, nourishment and destruction, peace and power. We gather as your people to remember your timely and tangible works. We call upon your many names as we have known you to be Redeemer, Counselor, Shepherd, and Friend. We worship you for who you are, and we draw near to become who you have crafted us to be. Amen.

↑ **Hymn 25 (Black)** O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,

Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure:

Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,

From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream fades at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!

Litany of gratitude for the religions of the world - Rev Lahoma Howard

We give thanks for the world's religions and the richness they bring to our lives.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Baha'i brothers and sisters, for their genuine openness and desire for unity.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Buddhist sisters and brothers, for their sense of peace and relinquishing of self.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Christian brothers and sisters, for their message of love and ethic of compassion.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Hindu sisters and brothers, for their open-hearted acceptance of others and kindly disposition toward those of other faiths.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Humanist brothers and sisters, for their emphasis on the dignity and worth of all persons.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Muslim sisters and brothers, for their commitment in prayer and faithfulness in worship.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Jain brothers and sisters, for their deep respect for life and practice of nonviolence.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Jewish sisters and brothers, for their enriching symbols of worship and cherishing of tradition.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Native brothers and sisters, for their reverence of nature and their ancient and still-living culture.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Shinto brothers and sisters, for their affirmation of ritual and awareness of the natural world.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Sikh sisters and brothers, for their warm hospitality and public witness of faith.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Taoist brothers and sisters, for their sense of the connectedness of all things and pursuit of harmony.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Unitarian sisters and brothers, for their openness to truth and commitment to freedom, reason and tolerance.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for our Zoroastrian sisters and brothers, for their devotion to right thought, right speech and right action.

We give thanks.

We give thanks for every faith tradition, named and unnamed, for the variety and richness of their spiritualities, for their united quest for truth, for their common dedication to the pursuit of peace, reconciliation and healing of the spirit.

We give thanks. Ever unite us as one community of joy ,hope, love and peace. Ever inspire us to live more genuinely and authentically, Celebrating diversity, Affirming unity, Pursuing peace, Not just for better relations among philosophies, But for a new and more just world. Amen.

Reading – Rev. Lahoma Howard

Message for the Young and Young at Heart: Rev. Lahoma Howard

“The Beauty and Importance of Many Expressions of Faith”

Anthem

If I Can Help Somebody

Alma Androzo

Message/Reading – Nicole Klosterman

Hymn 602 (black) – Savior God Above

Savior God above, God almighty, God of love,
Please look down and see my people through.
I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky,
I don't mind the gray skies, 'cause they're just clouds passing by.

Savior God above, God almighty, God of love,
Please look down and see my people through.
Heaven is a goodness time, a brighter light on high.
Love your neighbor as yourself, and have a brighter by and by.

Savior God above, God almighty, God of love,
Please look down and see my people through.
I believe God is now, was then, and always will be.
With God's blessing we can make it through eternity.

Savior God above, God almighty, God of love,
Please look down and see my people through.

Tribute to Rev. Derek A. Terry - Vicki Scherer
Executive Director of Open and Affirming Coalition, UCC

Invitation to Generosity – Rev. Lahoma Howard

When we share our resources in community, we demonstrate our faith and trust in God's provision and in our collective discernment. When we give, we replicate the Holy One's generosity and creativity. When we offer ourselves, we magnify the blessings Creator has bestowed upon us. Let us give in a spirit of joy and hope for the kingdom of God.

Offertory Liberated Brother *Horace Silver*

↑ Hymn of Praise

I believe God is now, was then, and always will be.
With God's blessing we can make it through eternity.
Savior God above, God almighty, God of love,
Please look down and see Your people through.

↑ Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Lahoma Howard

Wonderful God, please sanctify these gifts for your glory, amplify them for your people, and replicate them for your kingdom. May they meet the needs and hopes of the world and community in which we belong.

Prayers for the Community – Ed Nilson

Lord's Prayer

... Our Father, our Mother, who is in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give all this day their daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us and leave us not in temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

↑ Hymn Somos el barco *Lorre Wyatt*

Somos el barco, somos el mar, yo navego en ti, tu navegas en mí.

We are the boat, we are the sea, I sail in you, you sail in me.

Closing Message and Benediction – Rev. Sonia Dunbar

May we become at all times, both now and forever Protectors for those without protection Guides for those who have lost their way Ships for those with oceans to cross Bridges for those with rivers to cross Sanctuaries for those in danger Lamps for those without light Places of refuge for those who lack shelter And servants to all in need.

Tenzin Gyatso, 14th Dalai Lama (adapted).

Postlude There Is No Greater Love *Iaham Jones*

Announcements

We welcome the St. Jay Jazz Quartet. Today's musicians include: John Goodrich - piano, Peter Storrings – tenor sax, Phil Brown – bass, and Kaci Cochran – drums.