

# Worship on the Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 8, 2024

Rev. Pamela Rose Vollinger, Guest Preacher  
Guest Organist Douglas Green

Prelude "Pavane" Alec Rowley

## Welcome

### Call to Worship

*Leader:* Your Word creates the heavens and the earth, O God; therefore we listen with open ears.

*All:* **Your love gives us life; therefore we open our lips to praise you.**

*Leader:* You give us your Christ who heals us, teaches us and calls us.

*All:* **With gratitude we receive him with open arms.**

*Leader:* You give us your Spirit, who guides us in the wisdom of your love.

*All:* **We open our hearts to your presence and your grace.**

*Leader:* Open our ears to hear you, God, and our hands to serve you.

*All:* **Hallelujah! Arise in us, Spirit of Life, and transform us by your grace. Hallelujah!**

### Opening Prayer

Lord of mercy and compassion, be with us this day as we hear of the healing love of Jesus. Remind us that we are also recipients of his compassion, and we are called to bring the same hope and love to others. Prepare us for service in His Name. AMEN.

Hymn 140 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

### Prayer of Confession

**Patient Lord, you know us so well. We are fascinated by healing and can talk all day about the miracles, but we do**

**not understand the compassion of Christ. We often say, "Just heal us; or Just make me rich; or Just make things go better at work" or other such deals and then we promise our faithfulness and witness. But in our hearts, we just don't get it. Please forgive us, Lord, when our greed and fear get in the way of understanding. We are quick to judge, quick to exclude, quick to put others down instead of building them up. Forgive us, God. Help us to amend our ways. Help us embrace the inclusive love you graciously offer us and expect us to offer others. Help us to know the transformational power of your love. Get us ready to be faithful witnesses to you in all that we say and do. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.**

### Assurance of Forgiveness

Witness of Nature "Bard Owlets"

### Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23  
Epistle James 2:1-17  
Gospel Mark 7:24-37

Sermon "Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment"

Offertory "Adagio" J.C.H. Rinck

### Doxology

### Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, how often we take for granted all that we have. How often we fail to recognize how blessed we are. Take these gifts we give in response to your generosity and use them to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.**

### Prayers of the Church and the Lord's Prayer (*trespasses*)

Hymn 664 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

## Benediction

**Postlude** "Rondeau in F" David Lasky

## Liturgical Resources Used with Permission

[https://images.pres-outlook.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Outlook-Order-of-Worship-9\\_8.pdf](https://images.pres-outlook.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Outlook-Order-of-Worship-9_8.pdf)

OT 23 – 16th Sunday After Pentecost – Unfolding Light

Worship Connection: September 8, 2024

## Church Calendar

Sunday, September 8 **Worship** 10:00–11:00 a.m.  
Rev. Pamela Vollinger will be the Guest Preacher today and Douglas Green will be the Guest Organist.

**Congregational Meeting** Immediately after worship, there will be a brief meeting of the congregation to vote on the resolution of the Board of Trustees to add a clause to the by-laws to stay in compliance with a new IRS requirement for churches and other nonprofit organizations. No other business will be conducted at this meeting. **Fellowship** Coffee Hour will be hosted by Anita Fritze.

Wednesday, September 11 **Bible Study** 9:00–10:00 a.m.  
All are invited to join us as we study *How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People* by Pete Greig. We will discuss Chapter 2 "Pause" in the Parlor and online.

Thursday, September 12 **Tots Time** 10:00–11:00 a.m.  
Toddlers with their parents, grandparents, or babysitters are welcome to share in play time, refreshments and conversation.

## **Union Chapel (United Church of Christ)**

**The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Designated Term Pastor**

Becky Walters, Administrative Assistant

Laura Chapman, Sexton

Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist



**Reverend Pamela Rose Vollinger,  
Guest Preacher  
September 8, 2024**

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*"Whoever you are and wherever you are on  
your faith journey, you are welcome here."*