

LITURGY OF THE WORD

AUGUST 24, 2025 & 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOLE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1000 Gravenstein Hwy North & 707.823.2484 & www.uccseb.org

PIANO PRELUDE

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

– Doris Akers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SINGING BOWL

3 Rings: Creator, Christ & Holy Spirit

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 103

One: Bless God, O my soul. All that is in me, bless the one who made me.

Many: May I not forget all that God is continually doing, giving life and food and relationships, healing brokenness, offering forgiveness.

One: Just as the stars blanket the night sky, God's steadfast love covers all.

Many: As deep as the deepest ocean trench, so is the depth of God's mercy.

One: Like the petals of late summer flowers, we are scattered by the wind.

Many: But God's steadfast love and compassion endure forever.

* OPENING HYMN

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

#222

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Isaiah 58:9–13

One: God of justice and love, we confess to you and to each other that we have often failed to show up for those in need. We have gossiped about others and pointed fingers. We have turned away from you and our community, trying to make a go of it on our own.

Many: Parched for mercy, we cry out for your help. Forgive us, God, and show us your ways, that we may be renewed like a garden freshly watered...
(silent prayer)

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

* PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you: **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Luke 13:10

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

ending with *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin'dom come...

* HYMN

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

#614

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13: 10 – 17

Pew Bible, NT, p. 76

SERMON *What Religion Is For* Pastor Benjamin

PIANO INTERLUDE *I'm Gonna Live* African American spiritual

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Kathy Matthies

OFFERTORY SONG *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?* – Pete Seeger

* DOXOLOGY Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen

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

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Feasting on the Word

**God of the Sabbath, we rejoice in offering you these gifts,
that our lives may show forth the wondrous healing
of your love in the world. Amen.**

PRAYER PRACTICE

* CLOSING HYMN *Lead On, O Cloud of Presence* #633

* BENEDICTION

PIANO POSTLUDE *Lancashire* – Henry T. Smart

Following worship, all are invited to Kinship Time in the Bell Tower Courtyard.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers	Judy Davison (Lead), Victoria Mayster & Linda Roa
Piano	J. Althea
Liturgists	Tirza Dawn & Kathy Matthies
Preacher	Rev. Benjamin Broadbent
Special Music	Bredesen-McGinnis Family
Song Leader	Andy DelMonte
Tech Team	Eliana Curtis & Elia DelMonte
Chancel Flowers	Garth Watson

STAFF TEAM

Lead Minister	Rev. Dr. Benjamin Broadbent
Associate Minister	Open
Congregational Administrator	Joy Richards
Faith Formation Coordinator	Tirza Dawn
Choral Director	Andy DelMonte
Keyboardist	J. Althea
Handbell Director	Karna Roa
Bookkeeper	Deanna Euritt
Custodian	Keith Brown



Our mission is to worship God and share the love of Jesus Christ, teaching the message of Jesus to all ages and putting our faith into action.



An Open & Affirming congregation in the United Church of Christ, we welcome and affirm people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, ethnicity, age, and gender identity and expression.



A Sanctuary congregation in the Sonoma County Sanctuary Coalition.



Cover image: "Unseen Friends," Kathleen Peterson