

LITURGY OF THE WORD

JULY 26, 2026 ☞ 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

PIANO PRELUDE

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

– Trad. American

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SINGING BOWL

3 Rings: Creator, Christ & Holy Spirit

OPENING PRAYER

– from *The Book of Hours*, Rainer Maria Rilke

One: You, God, who live next door,

**Many: If, at times, through the long night, I trouble you with my urgent knocking,
this is why: I hear you breathe so seldom.**

One: I know that you're all alone in that room. If you should be thirsty, there's no
one to get you a glass of water.

Many: I wait listening, always. Just give me a sign! I'm right here...

(silent pause)

One: As it happens, the wall between us is very thin. Why wouldn't a cry from
one of us break it down?

Many: It would crumble easily, it would barely make a sound.

* OPENING HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

#718

* PASSING THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Matthew 13:24–25

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

ending with *The Lord's Prayer*

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

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kin'dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

* HYMN

Touch the Earth Lightly

#693

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13: 24 – 30, 36 – 43

Pew Bible, NT, p. 13

SERMON

Darn that Bearded Darnel

Pastor Benjamin

PIANO INTERLUDE

Tenderness

– Colin Gibson

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Julie Hodge

OFFERTORY

If I Could Fly Where the Warm Air Flows

– Garth Watson

* DOXOLOGY

– Lanny Wolfe

Surely the presence of our God is in this place;

I can feel the Spirit's power and grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Feasting on the Word

One: Holy One, receive these offerings as you receive our lives.

Many: Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts, our generosity and our reluctance. Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes known that our lives may show forth your glory. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of steadfast love: **Hear our prayer.**

* CLOSING HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

#668

* BENEDICTION

PIANO POSTLUDE

CWM Rhondda

– John Hughes

Following worship, all are invited to Kinship Time in the Bell Tower Courtyard and, when the bell rings, to Faith Formation Hour.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers Terri Harper (Lead),
Lori Lapham & Steve Reid
Piano J. Althea
Liturgists Julie Hodge & Tirza Dawn
Preacher Pastor Benjamin
Song Leader Andy DelMonte
Special Music See Below
Tech Team Eliana Curtis & Elia DelMonte
Chancel Flowers Muriel Weaver

STAFF TEAM

Lead Minister Rev. Dr. Benjamin Broadbent
Congregational Administrator Joy Richards
Faith Formation Coordinator Tirza Dawn
Choral Director Andy DelMonte
Keyboardist J. Althea
Handbell Director Karna Roa
Custodian Paul Loudon



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.



A Sanctuary congregation in the Sonoma County Sanctuary Coalition.



Offertory Musicians: Andy DelMonte (Director); DeAnne Reader (Piano);
Mimi Reid & Anne Levin (Sopranos); Victoria Mayster, Maria Culberson
& Lois Michelsen (Altos); Sasha Anderson, Keith Blackstone
& Garth Watson (Tenors); Roger Wilson, Bob Burnett & Rich Levin (Basses)