

LITURGY OF THE WORD

AUGUST 16, 2026 ☞ 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

PIANO PRELUDE *Let There Be Peace on Earth* – Miller & Jackson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SINGING BOWL 3 Rings: Creator, Redeemer & Sustainer

CALL TO WORSHIP – Beth Merrill Neel

One: Children of God: welcome! Welcome to this place of love and grace.

Many: We gather in a place of hope and perseverance.

One: God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

Many: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

One: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

Many: In gratitude for this extravagant embrace, let us worship God.

* OPENING HYMN *The Church's One Foundation* See insert

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Matthew 15:22–24

One: Have mercy upon us, Lord Jesus, for we are desperate for your help.

Many: Living disrupted lives, we cannot take back what we have said nor undo what we have done. Haunted by the past, plagued by the present, and fearful of the future, we shrink away from your gaze as strangers outside your circle of blessing... (silent prayer)

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Matthew 15:22

CHILDREN'S PRAYER ending with *The Lord's Prayer*

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

* HYMN *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* #18

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 15: 21 – 28* Pew Bible, NT, p. 17

SERMON *Sacrificing Privilege* Pastor Benjamin

PIANO INTERLUDE *Old Hundredth* – Louis Bourgeois (1551)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Douglas Freeman

OFFERTORY SONG

A Living Prayer

– Rob Block

* 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: Gracious One, you have given us more mercy than we could imagine and an abundance of blessings we do not deserve.

Many: Receive now these gifts as tokens of our gratitude to you, that your mercy may be multiplied and your blessings abound to embrace all those in need. Amen.

PRAYER PRACTICE

* CLOSING HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

See insert

* BENEDICTION

PIANO POSTLUDE

World Peace

– Jackson, Miller & Webb

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



WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers Joanne Matson (Lead),
Victoria Mayster & Steve Reid
Piano J. Althea
Liturgist Douglas Freeman
Preacher Pastor Benjamin
Song Leader Denelle Tognozzi
Special Music Mimi Reid
Tech Team Ainsley Curtis & Eliana Curtis
Chancel Flowers Marylou Hillberg

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, and affirm people
of every religious background, family composition, sexual orientation, physical and
mental ability, ethnicity, age, gender identity & expression.



A Sanctuary congregation in the Sonoma County Sanctuary Coalition.



Cover image: "Crumbs of Love," Michael Cook (2008)