

## Welcome to Church of Christ - September 27, 2026

### Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*We are honored to worship God with you today!*

#### Welcome

*Please put away your phones so that we may be truly present. Thank you!*

**Prelude Anthem**     *A Grateful Heart* - M. McDonald

#### Call to Worship

~Ruth Adotte

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**People**     **O my God, in you we trust.**

Leader: Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.

**People:**     **Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation;  
for you we wait all day long.**

Leader: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

**People:**     **Do not remember the sins of our youth or our transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember us, O Lord!**

All: Good and upright is the Lord;  
God leads the humble in what is right.

#### Hymn 68     *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Vs 1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy,  
never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by  
flaming tongues above; praise his name - I'm fixed upon it - name of God's redeeming love.

Vs 2 Here I raise to thee an altar, hither by thy help I've come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he,  
to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.

Vs 3 O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee; prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

#### Moment of Silent Prayer

##### **The Lord's Prayer (trespasses/debts)**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on  
earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses (debts),  
as we forgive those who trespass against us (our debtors). And lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## **Rite of Baptism** - Cade Frederick Anderson, Wells Alan Anderson, Emma Rae Brosh

### **Prayer for a Baptism (unison)**

~ by Rev. Bruce F. Anderson

Loving God, we give thanks for the Presence of your Holy Spirit in the life of each one of these three beloved children: Cade Frederick Anderson, Wells Alan Anderson, and Emma Rae Brosh. Help each child to grow up in every way into Christ, as a witness to His Resurrection and power. Make each of them all for Jesus: a blessing to your world, a steward of the gospel, and a person for others in the name of our risen Lord, in whose name we rejoice, give thanks and sing. Amen.

### **Hymn**

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

Vs 1 Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign; with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Vs 2 Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed! Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

Vs 3 Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came. Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.

Vs 4 Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are. Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

### **Scripture**

Matthew 21:23-32

~Ruth Adotte

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

### **Sermon**

"Authority of Love"

### **Hymn**

*You Call Us, Lord*

Please remain seated:

You call us, Lord, to care for self and neighbor too, to take the risk and dare to show what love can do. Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask for faith in your unfailing grace to make us equal to the task.

You call us, Lord, to be good stewards of the earth; to tend it as a place of blessedness and worth. Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask for faith in your unfailing grace to make us equal to the task.

**Light of Service**      *Habitat for Humanity of Northwest CT*      ~Tina Olsen

We have a chance to offer financial gifts in support of Spirit-led work. Undesignated gifts go to the recipient named above. Please use the white envelopes in the pews to designate giving otherwise. There is no obligation, and we always welcome prayers for our LOS recipients. Thank you!

**Offertory**      *Canticle of Praise - V. C. Johnson*

**Doxology** (two versions are offered) Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen. OR: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sharing Joys and Church Life Updates**

**Sharing Prayer Concerns**

**Silent Prayer and Meditation**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn**      *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

Vs 1 Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Vs 2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth, let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth. Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old, blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Vs 3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense, help us bear each other's burdens breaking down each wall or fence. Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care, bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

Vs 4 So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife. Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase, messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

### **Our Common Commission**

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

Please remain seated to listen or depart quietly.

**We gladly list these prayer concerns and ask you to keep us apprised of any updates so that we have the most current information.**

**If you would like a pastoral visit please call or email Pastor Erick  
(860-303-0910, [reverendole@gmail.com](mailto:reverendole@gmail.com)).**

### **Members needing our prayers:**

Patty Cammilletti, Steven, Tina & Aaliyah Chausse, Linda Creedon, Bonnie Greenwood, Bill Eckert, Arlene Patten, Dan Patten, Cindy Sinclair, Ernie Sinclair, Ann Thew, John Thew

### **Ongoing concerns for our relatives and friends:**

Annattie P., Eric, Jo, Kim (Sue Allen), Susannah, Katie B., Kelly W. (Sue Allen), Nell, Sandy (Bethany Lee), Andrew Anderson (Ruth Adotte), Jay Atkinson, Ray Beyers & Misty Carbone, Andrea Blacklow (Kristin Mudge), Edie Bruckner, Ron and Rev. Karen Burger (Gary Boucher), Leigh Cappabianca (Missionary in Turkey), Jan Caudle (Nels White's sister), Elana Chafetz (Tina Olsen), Hope Childs, Bob Cranz (Emily King), Lisa Dedon, Carol Emerson (Nancy Herzig), John Funchion, Fran and Arnold Gellman (Tina Olsen), Godshall family (Liz Allyn), Dennis Carr Hannifin (Sally Carr's son), Olivia Howard (Ky Byrne's cousin), Pat Lowell, Rick Martin (Ruth Adotte), the Martin family (Linda Deloy), David McAlister (Heather Thomson), Patty Minton (Maresi Brown's mother), Lynn and Rich Reifsnyder, Abby Rockwood (Olsen family friend), Bobbi Sue & Ira Root, Laura Smith (Missionary in Venezuela), Ryan Sterba, Barbara Storrs (Debbie Storrs), Rob Thew, Sue Ellen Thomas (Pastor Erick's sister), Dennis Watlington (Tim Hitchcock), Judi Welch, Bobbi Willard & Ira Root, Keegan Zygmunt

### **Those who are grieving: the families of:**

David Davis, Ernest Dibble, George Green, Judy Green, Jackie Hamad, Harold King, Karen Linden, Will Minton, John Murphy, Avery Nelson, Elizabeth Norman, Bill Patrick, Sally Quale, Constance Rotondo, Thatcher Rupert, Mary Sager, Dottie Satherlie, Carrie Stetson, Chris Williams, and the Cornwall UCC

### **In the wider community**

The people of Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Venezuela, Syria, Iran, Africa, Jewish synagogues and communities under attack, all enduring ongoing violence, the people of Nepal who have been devastated by flooding, all women and men serving in the armed forces, victims of sex trafficking, innocent people being unjustly detained, women who have lost access to healthcare, Habitat for Humanity of NWCT