

July 23, 2023

**Prelude and Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: As we harvest our growing abundance in this time of mid-summer, may we relish in the fruit of our labor,

**People: As we harvest the fruitful seeds of nature and God's Garden, let us share in the bounty with our neighbors.**

Leader: While we channel resources – water, light, fertile ground to the produce we desire in our gardens,

**Leader: May we also recognize that the weed, the rabbit, the caterpillar also has needs for sustenance.**

Leader: We have enough, and an attitude of plentifulness increases through sharing.

**People: For what our land grows with our tending, is only ours for a moment in time, filling a short term and immediate need.**

**All: May we share the harvest by tithing back to nature, feeding the hungry among us, storing for the future without hoarding, and setting enough seed aside for the next season of planting.**

**\*Hymn #31: "All things Bright and Beautiful"**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43 Karen Yoho

**Special Music** Laura Knutson

**Time With Young Disciples**

**Unison Prayer**

**Gracious God, we give thanks for the gospel record and for the simple words Jesus speaks, which help us understand your presence in the world and the coming of your reign. Help us to understand Jesus' words, and to see the signs and parables you have for us in the world today; through the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

**Sermon: "We Are In This Together"**

**\*Hymn #586:** “Come to Tend God’s Garden”

**The Community at Prayer** (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord’s Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

**Prayer Response**

**Invitation to the Offering**

*(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)*

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**We dedicate these resources to doing God’s work among God’s people. May these gifts plant seeds of justice for God’s children who seek it; may they remind us to love more mercifully; may all walk humbly as we learn to tread gently upon this earth. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #393:** “Blessed Be the Tie that Binds”

\*Commissioning and Blessing

\*Postlude

***The Seed: Serviced Prayers for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*** was written by Dr. Sherry Warren who serves as Minister of Women’s and Gender Justice for the National Ministries of the UCC. She loves to garden and grow things.