



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
Sunday, July 13, 2025**

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here*

Help Us Forgive, Forgiving Lord

1. Help us for - give, for - giv - ing Lord The
 2. For on the cross you bore for us The
 3. Let grace un - lock each pris - oned heart, un -
 4. And then, the bro - ken, cir - cle closed, the

wrong curse, coil bro - ken that the each fist - ed friend - ship o - thers do, the hate hand ship do, and when our hearts are and gave your life to un - til from hate our Lord, hold us fast with -

pierced lift hearts in by from are the pain, us, freed, bonds to sin's our by bring cruel hands your the hurt to you. and crush - ing weight. in love ex - tend. for - give - ness heal.

Prelude *Three Versets on “Christe Sanctorum”* - D. VanAndel Frisch

Welcome Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick

Passing of the Lord’s Peace

***Call to Worship**

One: Children of God, welcome

All: to this place of love and grace, of hope and mercy!

One: We gather today to worship the One who created us,

All: the One who calls us, who equips us, the One who loves us without end.

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

All: We are welcome, just as we are.

One: We are loved, just as we are.

All: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen! Amen!

***Unison Prayer**

One: When we resist your call to open our hearts to allow the freshness of your grace to enter:

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: When we close our eyes to your new and unexpected possibilities of healing and reconciliation:

All: *Christ, have mercy.*

One: When we let fear overwhelm us, and cling to the security of what we know instead of risking new steps toward your freedom and justice:

All: *Lord, have mercy.*

One: God's mercies are fresh every morning. In Christ, God offers forgiving grace and welcome into a community of trust, abundance, and hope.

All: *Let us give thanks for the mercy of God, and pass the peace of Christ in community among us.*

***Opening Hymn** *Help Us Forgive, Forgiving Lord* (Page 1)

Old Testament Reading *Psalms 51:1-10*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Choral Anthem

Blest Are They

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27-36

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Sermon

“Mercy Me!”

Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick

Musical Response

*“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”
(See Insert)*

Prayers of the People (*Joys and Concerns*)

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick

The Lord’s Prayer

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, as we forgive those

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever; Amen.

Call to Offering

Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick

***Doxology**

***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**

Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick

***Closing Hymn**

Great God of Mercy

(Page 6)

***Benediction**

***Departing Together** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Amen.*

Postlude

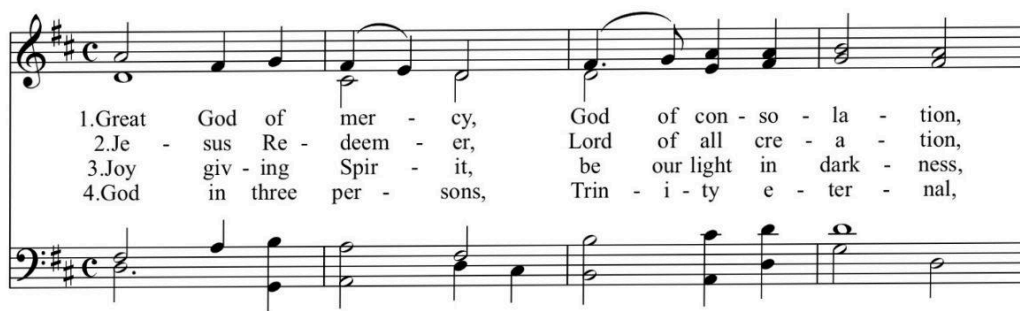
Trumpet Tune

- Gordon Young (1919-1998)

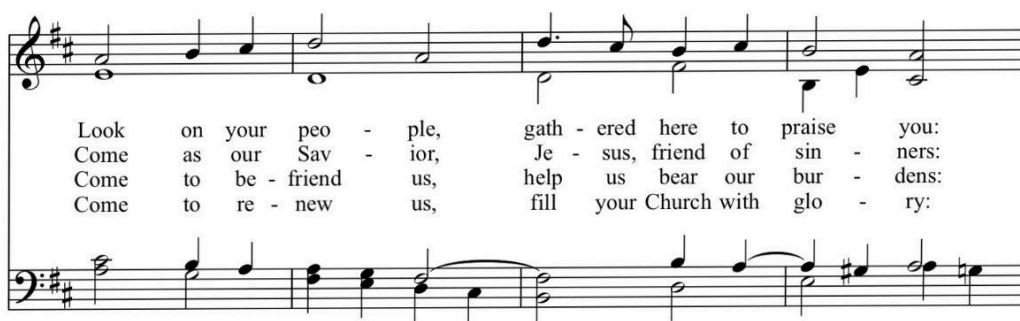


The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by
Judith White in loving memory of her mother, Ruth Heal, who
would have turned 100 this week.

Great God of Mercy



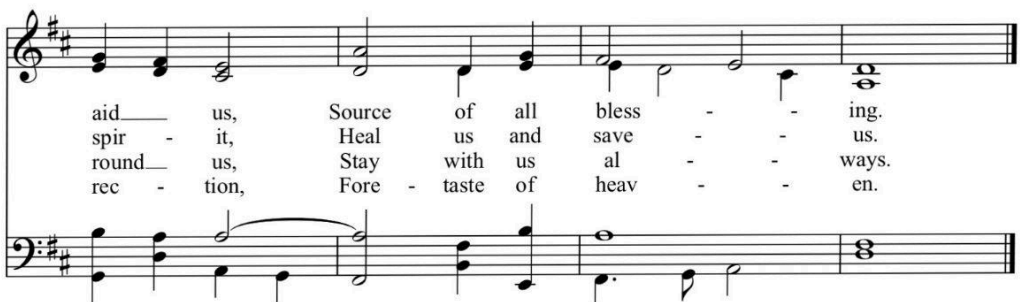
1. Great God of mer - cy, God of con - so - la - tion,
 2. Je - sus Re - deem - er, Lord of all cre - a - tion,
 3. Joy giv - ing Spir - it, be our light in dark - ness,
 4. God in three per - sons, Trin - i - ty e - ter - nal,



Look on your peo - ple, gath - ered here to praise you:
 Come as our Sav - ior, Je - sus, friend of sin - ners:
 Come to be - friend us, help us bear our bur - dens:
 Come to re - new us, fill your Church with glo - ry:



Pi - ty our weak - ness, come in power to
 Grant us for - give - ness, lift our down - cast
 Give us true cour - age, breathe your peace a -
 Grant us your heal - ing, pledge of re - sur -



aid us, Source of all bless - ing.
 spir - it, Heal us and save us.
 round us, Stay with us al - ways.
 rec - tion, Fore - taste of heav - en.

Serving You Today

Worship Leaders:

Ministers of the Congregation
Pastor
Director of Music Ministries
Ushers/Greeters
Lay Reader
Fellowship

All Members of First Church
Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick
Kiel Krommer
Nick & Roseann Vinciguerra
Judith White
Joseph Farr-Wholley & Sarah Brown

Officers:

Moderator
Clerk
Treasurer
Chair, Board of Deacons
Chair, Board of Trustees

Cindy DeSellier
Carol Mullen
Suzanne Kelley
Jeanne Dill
Suzanne Kelley

Members at Large:

Lynn Galica
Elaine Harris
Mary Newland

Staff:

Church Administrator
Sunday School Superintendent
Custodian

Lee Brahen
Erin Greene Wallace
Linda Whippie

Office Hours, Pastoral Care, and Contact Information

Church Office Hours

The church office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You can always leave a message on the church answering machine at 413-267-3312 when the office is not staffed, or contact the office by email at office@firstchurchmonson.org.

Pastor's Hours

Monday 8:30 - 4:30 *remotely*, and Tuesday - Thursday from 8:30 - 4:30 *in-office*. If you are unable to meet during any of those hours, Pastor Holly is happy to meet outside those times by appointment, and can be reached by email at pastor@firstchurchmonson.org, or by phone at (808) 371-4701. For urgent matters, please contact her at any time by calling (808) 371-4701.

IN OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS

Please complete a Prayer Request Form and place it in the offering plate if you wish to include a name in next Sunday's bulletin. Your loved one will remain on the prayer list for one month, after which you may resubmit a request if necessary.

For healing and support:

Judie Newberry
Tony V.
Audrey Dupont
Bruce Cichowlas
Martha Warren
Stephen Farr

Christine Wilson
Rev. Jack Kraaz
Trenton
Carolyn Lewis
Michele Starwalt-Woods
Delores LaRose

For comfort in grief:

The Family and Friends of Florence Fenton
The Family of Joshua Shank

For strength and comfort during war and disaster:

The people of Ukraine
The people of Israel and Gaza
The people of Palestine and Lebanon
The people of Syria
The people of Central Texas

For all service people, wherever they may be:

Chelsea Carr
Malik Pugh, USMC
Michael Wales, USN

Stephen Dill, USN
Tim Olson, USN

This Week in the Life of the Congregation

July 13, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship (F/K)
July 14, Monday	3:00-4:00 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SA) 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SA)
July 15, Tuesday	Church Administrator on Vacation 5:15-6:15 p.m. - PiYo Class (SA)
July 16, Wednesday	6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SA)
July 17, Thursday	5:15-6:15 p.m. - PiYo Class (SA)
July 19, Saturday	7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA (L)
July 20, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship (F/K)

C - Sprague Chapel
F - Fellowship Hall
K - Kitchen
L - Library

P- Parking Lot
S - Sanctuary
SSA - Sunday School Auditorium
SS - Sunday School Room

Church News

Summerfest Success. Many thanks to all who helped make our Summerfest fundraisers a success. After expenses were paid, we earned \$547 at the fireworks; \$696 parking cars in our lot on July 4; \$713 at the strawberry shortcake booth; and \$338 selling the shortcake leftovers; for a total profit of \$2,294. Great job, everyone!

No July Tavern Night. Due to a conflict at the Main Street Tavern, First Church will not have a Tavern Night in July. The next Tavern Night will be August 28. Hearts Willing is sponsoring this event with the theme Home-Grown Monson and will feature a raffle of products originating in Monson.

Welcome to First Church



Welcome! If this is your first or second Sunday with us, we are grateful that you've come to be with us this morning. It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ and God's presence during our worship. If you have any questions at all about where to go or what to do, our deacons, ushers, and church members are here to assist in making you feel right at home, so please do not hesitate to ask.

All members and guests are encouraged to wear name tags. Guests may obtain a temporary adhesive name tag from an usher.

The Sacrament of Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper. It is up to parents to decide whether their children are ready to receive this Sacrament.

Handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp to the church and Fellowship Hall are on the High Street side of the building. Hearing assistive devices are available from the ushers.

Fellowship Hour begins after worship in Fellowship Hall (just follow the crowd). Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

Our *Let's Eat* breakfast is on hiatus until the fall. Please be sure to join us when *Let's Eat* begins again in September.

Learn more. If you would like to learn more about First Church, please call us at (413) 267-3312, email to office@firstchurchmonson.org, or visit our website at <http://www.firstchurchmonson.org>.

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