

September 15, 2024 11:00 a.m.

# First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota

*Create in me a*  
**clean heart,**



*O*  
*God,*  
*and renew a*  
**right spirit**  
*within me.*

*Psalm 51:10, ESV*

1031 S. Euclid Ave. Sarasota, FL 34237 ~ (941) 953-7044

[www.uccsarasota.com](http://www.uccsarasota.com)

**September 15, 2024**

**11:00 a.m.**

Flowers given by: **Gregg Matthews**, in loving memory of **Lorraine Matthews**. **Gib and Jeannie Mitchell**, in loving memory of our daughter **Karyn Humphreys**. **Dennis Crooks**, in celebration of **Evelyn's** birthday. **Bettye & Lee Smith** in celebration of 69 wonderful years of marriage

PRELUDE

*Concerto #2 for Organ*

J. S. Bach

\*SUNG CALL to WORSHIP

One: With all creation, we sing out in singing to our Composing, Collaborative, and Conducting God.

*God Reigns o'er All the Earth*

#21

**God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low, the farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show. God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains, in rainbow hues reds, yellows, blues of streams and country lanes.**

**God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years, in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears. God reigns o'er human life! Our inspiration still. Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reigning will.**

**God reigns o'er time and space! In history's by gone days, Christ's faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise. God reigns o'er time and space! O'er galaxy and sun, through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.**

**God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day, in all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay. God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!**

*Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped* (vs. 1 & 4)

#22

**Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustained all creation! Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration! Gladsome rejoice organ and trumpet and voice joining God's great congregation.**

**Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending. All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending. God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight: amen, amen never ending.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Creating, crafting, resting, renewing, pausing, breathing God, You surround and sustain us. You inspire us with moments of holy hilarity. And yet, there are so many gospels in the world around us today that beg for our allegiance and affection. Gospels that preach politically, socially, economically, and voices shouting that we deserve to have it *our* way. Break through the noisy cacophony of life with Your still singing voice. We pray for You**

**to bring order where there is chaos both internally and all around us. All this we pray in the name of the One whose love reorders and re-orientes our hearts, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE

*Come and Fill Our Hearts (3x)*

*see insert*

**Come and fill our hearts with Your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with Your peace. Alleluia!**

PAUSE to BREATHE and BE

READING

From *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home* by Pope Francis §217: The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast. For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive, they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an “ecological conversion,” whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51:10-18

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from violence, O God, of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

SERMON

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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 debts, as we forgive 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.**

OFFERING/ANTHEM

*The World Is Filled With Awe*

Mark Sirett

*The whole world is filled with awe, is filled with awe at your wonder, your wonder.*

*Where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth your songs of joy, you call forth songs, songs of joy and praise. You care for the land and water it. The streams of God are full. You drench its furrows, level its ridges, soften with showers and bless its crops. You crown the*

*year with bounty, the grasslands overflow. The hills are clothed, are clothed, clothed with gladness. The whole world is filled with awe, is filled with awe at your wonder, your wonder. Fields filled with flocks, valleys mantled in grain. They shout for joy, they sing your praise, they sing your praise, and shout for joy, and shout for joy, and sing, sing your praise.*

**\*DOXOLOGY/PRAAYER OF DEDICATION**

**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**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Sing of Colors*

#402

**Sing of colors, sing of colors that over the hills in profusion are springing; Sing of colors of the birds that fly outside my window their canticles singing; Sing of colors, in the rainbow's bright colors God's promise of hope we recall; Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all. Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.**

**Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes raise a song to the God of creation. Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares, who has offered salvation. Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all. Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall. Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata from "Suite Gothique"*

L. Boellmann

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ September 15, 2024**

We are delighted to welcome **Glenn Priest** as our guest choir conductor and organist.

**SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity) House meeting will be September 15 following the 11 a.m. worship.** This is a sacred conversation for us to listen and learn about what is on each other's hearts. We will receive updates on Affording Housing, Restorative Justice in school, and future issue work. **A light lunch will be served during this holy time.**

**Drumming as a Spiritual Practice** meets the first and third Tuesday in the **Chapel**. Our next meeting is on **Tues 9/17 at 3:00pm**. **New drummers are welcome;** drums are provided.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on **Wednesday, September 18 from 2-3:30 pm** in the Oasis Center. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month. For more information, text or call Lindsey Huddleston at 630-338-9294.

The Green Team is excited to sponsor a showing of the movie, “Kiss the Ground,” on **Thursday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. in Syster Hall**. The movie offers a hopeful message about regenerating the earth. How we treat the soil can be the basis for combatting climate change and degradation from pollution. Please join us for this inspiring film, featuring Woody Harrelson as narrator and environmental activist. We offer a showing of this film as part of the activities celebrating the Season of Creation in the month of September.

**The Missions Team invites all of you to a special coffee hour on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to see a presentation from CenterPlace Health.** This vital service in our community has open doors for all folks in need without regard to race, creed, age, housing status, citizenship status, sexual orientation or ability to pay. CenterPlace Health has operated successfully for the past 6 years, managing to expand both their range of services and their service area. There are seven locations throughout Sarasota County providing medical, dental and behavioral health services to patients of all ages. These include OB/GYN services as well as on-site labs and pharmacies. Two clinics are located on the campus of Senior Friendship Centers in Venice and Sarasota, providing much needed services to seniors, the new “working poor.” This is in addition to multilingual services for women, children, behavioral health, dental care and more. CenterPlace Health relies on a combination of federal funds, private grants, and charitable contributions. When Florida refused to accept over \$600,000 in Medicaid funds, their patient load forecast increased substantially. Come join us to learn more about how we can live our Covenants by supporting these vitally needed services.

**September 26, 2024 9:30 am in Syster Hall**, we welcome the Butterfly Gardening for Our Local Butterflies presented by Karen Rosenbeck. After providing some basic butterfly and gardening information, Karen will focus on native and non-native plants to help entice 16 local butterflies to your garden. Karen Rosenbeck is an avid amateur naturalist with a fascination for butterflies and butterfly gardening. After retirement as a Quality Management RN with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs and moving to Sarasota from Connecticut in 2010, Karen joined the Sarasota County Butterfly Club. Karen presided as President for several terms and is currently a senior Board Member, the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. Please call the church to RSVP.

Our Racial Justice Mission Group and Green Team are sponsoring: **Dr. Lyla June Johnston** on September 27-28. She is a scientist, public speaker, poet, hip-hop artist, and acoustic singer-songwriter of Diné (Navajo), Tsétsêhéstâhese (Cheyenne), and European lineages whose wide-ranging work focuses on Indigenous values, hidden histories, and their relevance to today's climate crisis. She completed degrees in environmental anthropology, indigenous studies, and American Indian education. At the heart of her teaching lies the Diné concept of Hózhó, a belief system that incorporates moral values such as beauty, harmony, goodness, relatedness, well-being, balance, and order. The topics are wide-ranging—from climate change and environmental racism to recovery and restoration, from intergenerational and interethnic trauma to healing, resilience, and community organizing. Registration is online and the link is in the midweek message.

Our Sacred Conversations on Race continues on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays in Oasis and Zoom at 3 p.m. **September 25: We Are Not All That Different: Race and Culture Identity** by Seconde Nimenya.

**Tuesday, October 8, 11:30 am in Syster Hall** ~ The Women's Association and the Green Team have assembled a panel of experts on our water quality and conservation - Is our water safe to drink? How can we make it cleaner? How can we make it last? A panel discussion with: **Dr. Abbey Tyrna**, Executive Director of Suncoast Waterkeepers; **Michael D'Imperio**, Univ. of Florida Extension Agent for Water Resources; **Dr. Dave Tomasko**, Executive Director of Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. Here are the facts. 97.3% of the earth's water is saltwater found in the Ocean. The remaining 2.7% is freshwater, but of this 2.7% only 30.1% is ground water, that is, water we can access to drink. The other 68.7% is in glaciers and ice sheets. That means only .8127% of the water on the entire planet is freshwater. That's less than 1%, and, of course, we do not have access to all of that for drinking. That should give us pause. Join three experts of diverse areas of study in a conversation about our water. From how our planet's water got here and shaped our world, to the characteristics of saltwater and freshwater, to why the twain do not meet. We admire water's beauty and its bounty. We thirst for it. And we also fear its power, its quick ability to destroy, and its rapid warming. Without it, shall we be like sand through the hourglass with our time running out? **All are welcome. Luncheon costs \$15.** Sign up after either Sunday service or call the church office at 941-953-7044.

**You are invited on October 16 at 1 p.m.** to join the Brady Program and the National council of Jewish Women host Po Murray, Co-founder and Chairwoman of the New Action Alliance/ Newtown Action Alliance Foundation. This will be hosted in the sanctuary.

**Gathering of the Waters** ~ As you travel this summer, please collect water from wherever you visit! Remember you can gather water from local Florida areas or wherever you find yourself in the coming months. On October 20th we will celebrate our annual Gathering of the Waters.

### **THIS WEEK**

#### **Sunday, September 15 ~ Welcome Glenn Priest, Guest Musician**

8:45 a.m. ~ Early Service, Chapel

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online

Noon ~ SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity) House Meeting

#### **Monday, September 16**

Tech Team Meeting, 3:30 p.m. Zoom and Oasis Center

#### **Tuesday, September 17**

Mission Team, 1 p.m. Zoom and Oasis Center

Drumming as a Spiritual Practice, 3 p.m., Chapel

Church Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Zoom

#### **Wednesday, September 18**

Wednesday Bible Study, 11 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Knitting Group, 2 p.m., Oasis Center

#### **Sunday, September 22 ~ Welcome Stephen Fancher, Guest Musician**

8:45 a.m. ~ Early Service, Chapel

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online

Noon ~ CenterPlace Health Presentation

**SAVE THESE DATES:**

Tuesday, November 5 – Ask me how you can help stop sex trafficking with Yvonne Lefebre  
Awareness Coordinator | Manatee and Sarasota County

The average age of entry into sex trafficking of survivors Selah Freedom has served is 12-14 years old.

Tuesday, December 3 – Annual preparation of Christmas gift bags for the men and women at Orchard Place and who receive  
Meals on Wheels

**NOTE:** We are no longer collecting shoe boxes. We are moving to gift bags. Please re-cycle your boxes.