

Rutherford Congregational Church, UCC

Virtual & In-Person Sunday Gathering

September 12, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

251 Union Ave, Rutherford,
NJ 07070 (201) 438-6324

ZOOM ID 896 848 7730

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8968487730>

www.rccucc.com

Rev. Annie Allen, Interim Pastor

Annie.shalom1@gmail.com

973-557-0611

Music included in this morning's service is produced under CCLI #65015.

WELCOME

Welcome to Rutherford Congregational Church. May the wind and fire of the spirit blow into your hearts and into this service today. Today, we will join with thousands of other Christian Churches around the world in the **Season of Creation**. Imagine, 2.2 Billion Christians united around one common purpose – the care of our Planet Earth – our Common Home. From September 1 to October 4, the Christian family celebrates the good gift of creation. This year our theme is ***A Home for All? Renewing the oikos of God.*** (Oikos is the Greek word for Home.) We are glad that you are here to join us as we strive to renew life, and care for God's Beloved Community, the *oikos* of God.

Our worship team hopes to provide a worship experience that is EPIC. That is, Experiential, Participatory, Image Rich, and Connective. So, everyone is encourage to participate in whatever way is most comfortable for you. And a reminder, Worship is not a spectator sport, so if outward expression is not your style, we invite you to open your heart wide, pray to Lord and feel God's presence during our time together.

For those of us here in-person the State of NJ has lifted the COVID-19 restrictions for communal worship. Therefore, if you are vaccinated you are not required to wear a mask or social distance from others. However, we encourage everyone to do whatever feels safest and most comfortable to you.

For a copy of today's order of worship or to view a YouTube video recording of this morning's service go to our home webpage www.rccucc.com.

And a reminder to you, that here in this local congregation of the United Church of Christ, *"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*

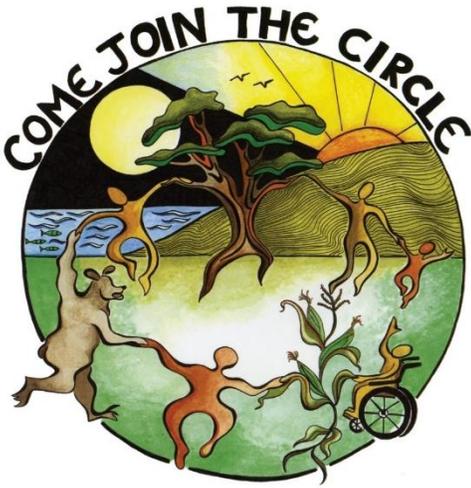
Now, let us begin service with our musical prelude.

Prelude

Mr. Bernard Jackson, Song Leader

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Spoken by Leader & People)



L: Look at all that God has made!

P: The sun and moon, land and sea, people and bears, all belong to God.

L. And in all our diversity, we are also connected.

P. Connected we are. We breath the same air, we drink the same water, the sun and moon shines on all of creation.

L. And everything is so connected that what affects one affects us all.

P. Let us rejoice in God's perfect design.

L. As good stewards of God's home, let us care for and

protect all of creation.

P. Let us protect all living things, people and animals, the ecosystems of air, land and water.

L. We are all a part of the Circle of Life.

P. Praise be to God for our planet home. Amen

INVOCATION / OPENING PRAYER

Creator of All, We are grateful that from your abundant love you created our planet to be a home for all. By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water and air. Each part of creation praises you in their being. With the Psalmist, we sing your praise that in your house "*even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young.*" We remember that you call human beings to keep your garden in ways that honor each creature and conserves their place in the abundance of life on Earth. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN

NCH 28

For the Beauty of the Earth

Readings of Sacred Scriptures



Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken. The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, for the LORD will take up their case and will exact life for life.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen

Mark 9:38-50

³⁸ John said to him, “Teacher, we saw a man who was driving out demons in your name, and we told him to stop, because he doesn't belong to our group.”

³⁹ “Do not try to stop him,” Jesus told them, “because no one who performs a miracle in my name will be able soon afterward to say evil things about me. ⁴⁰ For whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ I assure you that anyone who gives you a drink of water because you belong to me will certainly receive a reward.

⁴² “If anyone should cause one of these little ones to lose faith in me, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around the neck and be thrown into the sea. ⁴³ So if your hand makes you lose your faith, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life without a hand than to keep both hands and go off to hell, to the fire that never goes out. ⁴⁴ [a] ⁴⁵ And if your foot makes you lose your faith, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life without a foot than to keep both feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁶ [b] ⁴⁷ And if your eye makes you lose your faith, take it out! It is better for you to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to keep both eyes and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁸ There ‘the worms that eat them never die, and the fire that burns them is never put out.’

“Everyone will be purified by fire as a sacrifice is purified by salt. ⁵⁰“Salt is good; but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? “Have the salt of friendship among yourselves, and live in peace with one another.”

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen

SERMON

Harsh Words for a Critical Time

Pastor Annie Allen



Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation

Prayer of our Savior

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

TIME OF OFFERING

We who have been richly blessed are called to share that blessing with the world. Give freely in the joy of serving your neighbor and your God.



For those in the sanctuary, there is a collection plate at the rear of the center aisle.

For those on Zoom or watching on YouTube, please take time now to log onto our website www.rccucc.com and click on the donate link to make your offering. Or mail your check to RCC 251 Union Ave, Rutherford, NJ 07070 Attention: Financial Secretary.

OFFERTORY *Jesus on the Main Line (Traditional)* *Dammers-Desmond Trio*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (All)

Holy One, receive these gifts which we freely offer. May they be used for the purposes of your church, the relief of the poor, protection of the planet and the spreading of your abundant love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *We Pray to You* *Music & Lyrics by Alycia D. Desmond*



**God of all far above,
Fill our hearts with your love,
We are here to pray to you.
We pray to you.**



SENDING FORTH – CLOSING BLESSING

This moment in time is a Kairos moment for all Christians to rise up together to support audacious actions to save our common home. As you go your way today, with the wind of the spirit at your back, may you take one step toward healing our land, our air, our water, or our wildlife, just one small step. And may God's grace and peace be with you. AMEN.

POSTLUDE *I Saw The Light* *(video)* *Ransomed Bluegrass*

Join us for refreshments and fellowship after service.



Pastor's Bible Study, Each Tuesday, 7:00pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9735570611>

Women's Bible Study or Book Club, Contact Carol Marshall
carolmarshall1047@gmail.com

Administrative Council, Contact Carol Marshall, carolmarshall1047@gmail.com

Future Search Team, Contact Pastor Annie Allen, annie.shalom1@gmail.com

Marketing Team, Contact Meredith Mullane, meredithmullane@gmail.com

Mission Team, Contact Derek Mullane derek.correa.dc@gmail.com

or Carol Anderson careertutor@gmail.com

Joys & Concerns

Prayer Concerns

September 5, 2021

Tammy asked for prayers for all those affected by hurricane Ida, especially for the family of the two young people in Passaic who have not yet been found.

Alycia would like us to pray for Cat's friend Matey and especially her wife, Jess, who is hospitalized with the corona virus.

She and Cat also ask for prayers for the women of Texas.

Cat encourages us to kind words, generous acts, compassion, forgiveness and spreading joy.

Nola has experienced directly and through her neighbors the devastation of Ida's flooding. She has lost the use of her car and is looking for a very affordable used car. She asks for prayers for all those who are putting their homes and lives back together after Ida.

Joys

Every week we praise God that we may join together freely in worship.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.



Donations are being accepted to help with the earthquake & hurricane victims in Haiti.

Volunteers Needed: 150 Hot Meals to Homeless Families on October 15th

The Mission team will be leading the preparation and delivery of 150 hot meals to Family Promise on Oct 15, and we need help from the congregation to get that accomplished: bakers of frozen lasagna, salad tray assemblers, frozen vegetables cookers, all the morning of the 15th. Come participate in helping hungry people in our area. Please email Carol Anderson careertutor@gmail.com or call Carol at 201-686-9100 if you can help.

Food Pantry Help

Mission Team consulted with the Rutherford Food Pantry on how we can help in addition to donating groceries (which continues; the municipal building is now open and you can deliver groceries by ringing the doorbell for SOCIAL SERVICES at the side door). The director of social services is eager to have volunteers do non-client facing work, to preserve confidentiality, such as stocking shelves. Please consider volunteering your time. M-F, no remote opportunity known, but I can ask.

Telephone Bank to reach the elderly and shut-ins

Mission team is working with the Kip Center to provide volunteers for its phone bank to elderly shut-ins, whose isolation increased during the Covid-19 quarantine but is persistent. Making brief calls to the elderly is a wonderful way of sharing God's love and making new friends in the process.

If you will volunteer, or have a friend or family member who wants to serve, contact Carol Anderson at: careertutor@gmail.com or call or text 201-686-9100

Attendance & Finance Report

For Sunday, 09/05/21:	\$ 888	\$ 1,250	\$ 362
YTD Giving Revenues as of 09/05/21:	31,080	47,806	16,726
YTD All Other Revenues as of 09/05/21:	31,968	14,950	(17,018)
	<u>63,048</u>	<u>62,756</u>	<u>(292)</u>
Anticipated annual deficit per approved budget:			<u>(292)</u>
\$ Gifts In Kind This Week:		0.00	
\$ YTD Gifts In Kind, as of 09/05/21:		1,285.43	
Zoom Attendance 09/05/21	5	<u>AVG Zoom</u>	25
Zoom Worship 09/05/21	3	<u>AVG Zoom W</u>	13
Zoom Church School 09/05/21	2	<u>AVG Zoom CS</u>	5
Worship Attendance	12	<u>AVG W</u>	14
YouTube Views 09/05/21	8	<u>AVG YT</u>	18
Total Exposure 09/05/21	30	<u>AVG EX</u>	44

