



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion
Sunday, September 8**

*As a Christian community of faith and love,
we at First Church strive to accept and respect all people.*

- Core Values, 2022

33 O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

*1. 2. 3.

1. O Christ, the Healer, we have come To
 2. From ev - 'ry ail - ment flesh en - dures Our
 3. How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, How
 4. In con - flicts that de - stroy our health We
 5. Grant that we all, made one in faith, In

4.

pray for health, to plead for friends. How
 bod - ies clam - or to be freed; Yet
 weak our knowl - edge of our - selves! Re -
 di - ag - nose the world's dis - ease; Our
 your com - mu - ni - ty may find The

can we fail to be re - stored, When
 in our hearts we would con - fess That
 lease in us those heal - ing truths Un -
 com - mon life de - clares our ills: Is
 whole - ness that, en - rich - ing us, Shall

reached by love that nev - er ends?
 whole - ness is our deep - est need.
 con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
 there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

**May be sung in canon.*

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, © 1969, Hope Publishing Co.
 Tune: TALLIS' CANON, LM; Thomas Tallis, c.1505-1585

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Prelude “Healer of Our Every Ill” - Franklin Ashdown (1942-2023)

Welcome and Announcements

***Passing of the Lord’s Peace**

Introit

***Call to Worship**

L: We glory in the sea of creativity and the ocean of compassion, whose flow of beauty and cresting waves of magnificence draw us to prayer and praise.

P: *The eternal God, glimpsed in creation’s untiring quest, nuanced in humanity’s imaginative potential, enlivened in dynamics of love and life, invites us to worship in joyous oneness. Let us worship together, the Holy One!*

***Opening Hymn** *O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come* (Page 1)

***Morning Prayer**

Holy One, God of compassion and justice, you know the best accomplishments and sins of our lives. Stay our hands from throwing stones of condemnation so that we might be cleansed from sin. With you all things are possible, so we pray with faith and hope. Amen.

***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.*

Anthem

I Speak Jesus

Cindy DeSellier, soloist and guitarist

Giving of Ourselves Call to Offering



Let us return to God a portion of the bounty of our lives as we generously participate in giving through our tithes and offerings.

Choral Offertory *Healer of our Every Ill*

***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**

Through our gifts this morning, Holy One, may the work of our church, and the work of your realm be both enhanced and enriched. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a

deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Second Reading

Mark 7:24-37

²⁴From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to

heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Sermon

“Christ the Healer”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Communion Hymn *One Bread, One Body* (Page 6)

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Please partake of the bread at the moment most meaningful to you. Please wait to partake of the cup until all are served; then we drink as one.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Closing Hymn** *Healing River of the Spirit* (Page 7)

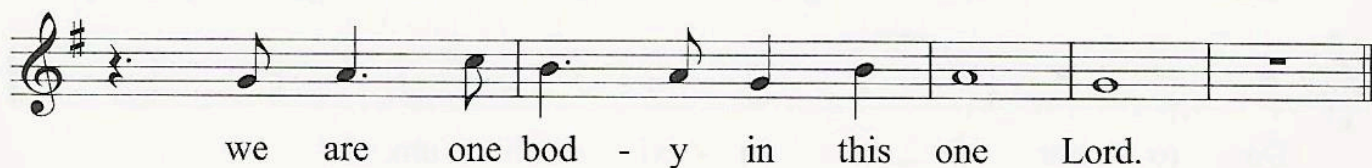
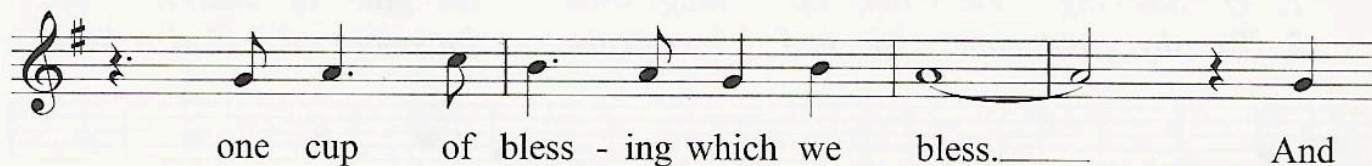
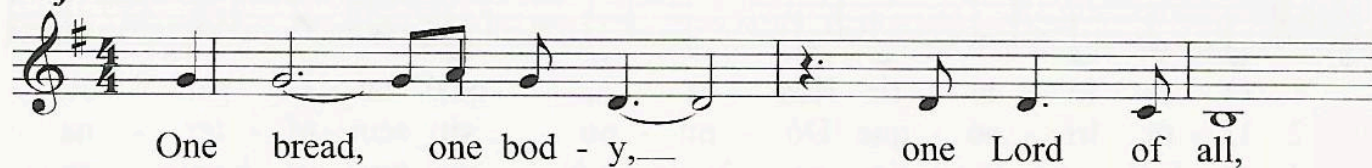
***Benediction**

Postlude *“Beach Spring”* – Wayne Wold (b. 1954)

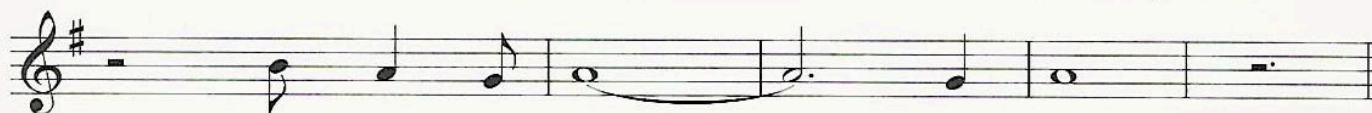
One Bread, One Body

161

Refrain



- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Gen - tile | or Jew, | ser - vant | or free, |
| 2. Man - y | the gifts, | man - y | the works, |
| 3. Grain | for the fields, | scat - tered | and grown, |



wom - an	or man,	no more.
one	in the Lord	of all.
gath - ered	to one,	for all.

Text and Music: John B. Foley, S.J. © 1978, John B. Foley, S.J. and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

HEALING RIVER OF THE SPIRIT

199

F C7/F F Gm/F F Bb F Bb C Bb F

1. Heal - ing riv - er of the Spir - it, Bathe the wounds that liv - ing brings.
 2. Well - spring of the heal - ing Spir - it, Stream that flows to bring re - lease,
 3. Liv - ing stream that heals the na - tions, Make us chan - nels of your pow'r.

C Dm Am Bb6 Bb F Bb C Bbadd9 Bb F

1. Plunge our pain, our sin, our sad - ness Deep be - neath your sa - cred springs.
 2. As we gain our selves, our sen - ses, May our lives re - flect your peace.
 3. All the world is torn by con - flict; Wars are rag - ing at this hour.

Csus2 C F F/E Dm C F Gm7 F Bb

1. Wea - ry from the rest - less search - ing That has lured us from _ your side,
 2. Grate - ful for the flood that heals us, May your church en - act _ your grace.
 3. Sav - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us, Guide our wind - ing hu - man course,

C Dm Am Bb6 Bb F Bb C Bbadd9 Bb F

1. We dis - cov - er in your pres - ence Peace the world can - not pro - vide.
 2. As we meet both friend and strang - er, May we see our Sav - ior's face.
 3. Till we find our way to - geth - er, Flow - ing home - ward to our Source.

Text: 87 87 D; Ruth C. Duck, b. 1947, © 1996, The Pilgrim Press. From *Circles of Care* by Ruth C. Duck, © 1998, The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
 Music: BEACH SPRING; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; keyboard acc. by Randall DeBruyn, b. 1947, © 1997, OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Serving You Today

Worship Leaders

Ministers of the Congregation
Pastor
Director of Music Ministries
Greeters/Ushers

All Members of First Church
Rev. Jack Kraaz
Kiel Krommer
Nick & Roseann Vinciguerra

Officers

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

Cindy DeSellier
Carol Mullen
Suzanne Kelley
Jeanne Dill
David Sanborn

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

The office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pastor Jack is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at other times by appointment. 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.

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:

Mary	Billy
Ray Roy	Joel Robertson
Mary Catherine Russell	Stephen Kraaz
Marilyn Leister	Kathy
Ellis	Kimberly
Peggy	Dan & Judie Newberry

For comfort in grief:

The Family and Friends of George Pellisier
The Family Donald Cortis, Jr., son of Roy & Lyle Miller
The Family of Jean Taylor
The Family of Richard O'Connor

For strength and comfort during war:

The people of Ukraine
The people of Israel and Gaza

For all service people, wherever they may be:

Chelsea Carr	Stephen Dill, USN
Malik Pugh, USMC	Tim Olson, USN
Michael Wales, USN	

Church News

Registration for 2024-2025 Sunday School. To help us better prepare for the kids this fall, please register your child today. Ages PK-high school are welcome. Learning is through stories, games, crafts, music, special projects, and conversation. To register, please click on the QR Code below to register your child.



Farmers' Market. Lynn Fioravanti of Baker's Lane Biscotti will be at the Farmers' Market at Monson Memorial Hall on Saturday, September 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She is selling biscotti and pizzelle, including her chocolate chip biscotti and gluten-free biscotti! You can buy that day and/or place orders for all of your upcoming holiday needs (gifts, platters, etc.). Lynn hopes you will stop by and say hello.

Welcome Sunday. Let's Eat returns! Join us for breakfast next Sunday at 8:00 a.m. for a continental breakfast, followed by the first day of Sunday School. Immediately following worship, please plan to attend the ice cream social in Fellowship Hall.

Fellowship Hosts Needed. After a summer break, Fellowship will start up again on September 15th where we practice hospitality every Sunday, visiting with old friends and making new ones. Each month there is a sign-up sheet seeking volunteers who can provide and serve light snacks

(not a meal!) and stay to help clean up. Teaming up with someone else is a good idea. Popular items are cheese, crackers, grapes, cookies, and juice - no one should feel like they need to bring tons of food or spend lots of money. There are also food items on hand purchased with money donated such as 1/2 & 1/2, milk, and paper goods. No need to worry about coffee preparation - there will always be training. If you have never volunteered for Fellowship, please think about doing so. Unfortunately, there won't be Fellowship on Sundays that are blank on the sign-up sheet.

Hearts Willing "Welcome Dinner". Hearts Willings is hosting a picnic-style "Welcome Dinner" on Wednesday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. for church members and friends interested in programs and service projects planned for this year. The dinner menu features a veggie appetizer, baked ham, sliced pineapple, homemade baked beans, coleslaw, and brownies with ice cream. The cost is \$5.00 per person which can be paid in advance or at the door. Reservations, by Sunday, September 22, may be made by signing up in Fellowship Hall or emailing Judy White at j.h.white@live.com or Carol Mullen at carellen7@gmail.com.

Tavern Night. On Thursday, September 26, Hearts Willing is hosting Main Street Tavern Night starting at 4:00 p.m. We will be holding a fall-themed raffle. We will provide a gift certificate and a fall plant. Donations of small items like scented candle, autumn décor, and seasonal foods would be appreciated to complete the raffle.

Estey Fest. On September 27, 2024, the Reed Historical Organ Society's Estey Fest will be coming to First Church to

enjoy the sounds of our organ. Kiel Krommer will give a demonstration and Bill Czelusniak will take the group on a tour of the “pipes” and give a historical presentation to enlighten the guests. The Music Committee will be serving the luncheon at noon for at least 100 people. Help is needed for preparation, serving, and clean-up. If you help on September 26 or 27, please contact Gay Palucyh at (413) 893-9014 or gay.paluch@comcast.net.



First Church of Monson, Congregational,
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
5 High Street, Monson, Massachusetts, 01057
413-267-3312
FirstChurchMonson.org

THIS IS MY CHURCH

- Anonymous

It is composed of people like me. We make it what it is.

It will be friendly--- if I am.

Its pews will be filled--- if I help fill them.

It will do a great work--- if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes--- if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship--- if I bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit--- if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be.

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 the third Sunday of each month. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. before worship. Donations are gratefully accepted but not required.

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>.

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



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