

South Freeport Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



“Psalm 85” by John August Swanson

Sunday Worship

September 22, 2024, 9:30am

Everyone is Welcome at South Freeport Church!

Hearing amplifiers are available for those who need them. Young kids are invited to explore the “Prayground” in the back of the sanctuary. We also have nursery care available, in the classroom near the organ. Children are always welcome to be their authentic selves here: noises, wiggles, and all!

Order of Worship

**Please rise as you are able*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Sean Patrick Coady

MEDITATION

Lizzie McIntire

A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other's lives. It is the knowledge that people have of each other their concern for each other, their trust in each other the freedom with which they come and go among themselves. – Wendell Berry

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP *Congregation invited to read the parts in bold*

From east and west, north and south, our journeys have led us here.

From near and far, we have gathered into community.

Setting aside thoughts of the past and the future, we come into the present.

This moment is a gift. Let us receive it.

*OPENING HYMN

“As A Fire is Meant for Burning”

#551

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Children and youth may now head upstairs to Children's Church and Middle School Youth Group

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Inspired by Psalm 85*

God, in ages past, you smiled on your good earth, and all its creatures. You lifted the cloud of guilt from your people, and put their wrongdoings out of sight. You took back your heated threats and cooled your righteous anger.

Help us again, O God. When we lose our way, give us a fresh start, and guide us on our path. Bring us to that bustling intersection where steadfast love and faithfulness meet, where righteousness and peace share a kiss. There, reconciliation sprouts green from the ground, and mercy falls down from the sky like rain.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

RESPONSE SONG

"God Welcomes All"

John Bell



God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Lizzie McIntire

SERMON

"Shaping Beloved Community"

Rev. Dr. Judith Blanchard

ANTHEM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother/God/Creator, 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 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.

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

*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

*CLOSING HYMN

"Come Build A Church"

#543

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE

"Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast strong, and true. Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others, so all the world can see.

God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen.

POSTLUDE



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