

**\* We invite you to stand as you are able**

**INTROIT\*** “Come, Come, Everybody Worship” The Faith We Sing #2271

### **GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*We invite all to participate by signing the attendance pad located in each pew. If you are a guest and visiting with us – we are glad you are here.*

### **A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **STATEMENT OF WELCOME TO ALL AND FOR ALL\***

**All: No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey you are welcome here.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP\***

One: Life can sometimes be very difficult.

**All: We look around and wonder where God is.**

One: In the midst of our trials and tribulations, God is with us.

**All: God surrounds us with love and courage.**

One: Come, let us praise God for God’s abiding presence.

**All: Lord, thank you for always being with us, even when we don’t recognize your loving presence. Amen.**

### **OPENING PRAYER\***

**All: We thank you, O Lord, that we are not alone. You watch over us, guide us, and lead us in your righteous pathways. When we stumble and fall, you lift us up and gently place us on that pathway again. When we doubt, you surround us with your mercy and peace, reassuring us of your presence through the love of others and of our savior Jesus Christ. Keep our hearts and minds open and ready to serve you, for we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**HYMN** “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” The Faith We Sing #2120 vs 1-3  
(We will sing the refrain to open and after the third verse)

**FIRST READING** Exodus 1:8-11, 22 & 2:1-10 (CEB)

Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn’t know Joseph. He said to his people, “The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. Come on, let’s be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land.” As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh.

Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: “Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live.”

Now a man from Levi’s household married a Levite woman. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him

for three months. When she couldn’t hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up with black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank. The baby’s older sister stood watch nearby to see what would happen to him.

Pharaoh’s daughter came down to bathe in the river, while her women servants walked along beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and she sent one of her servants to bring it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children.” Then the baby’s sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Would you like me to go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?”

Pharaoh’s daughter agreed, “Yes, do that.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I’ll pay you for your work.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. After the child had grown up, she brought him back to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I pulled him out of the water.”

**GOSPEL** Matthew 16:13-20 (CEB)

Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. I tell you that you are Peter. And I’ll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won’t be able to stand against it. I’ll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.” Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

One: Word of God, for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE** “Expecto Patronum” Pastor Kent A. Meyer, Ph.D.

**HYMN** “Grace Alone” The Faith We Sing #2162

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our God, 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**All: God of power and might: We, like Peter, struggle with the image of a savior sent to suffer and die. We may seem to be doing great in following Christ, but we too stumble at this point. Perhaps we stumble because we know that what follows is Christ's call to us to deny ourselves and pick up a cross of our own in order to follow. As we bring gifts for the work of building your kingdom, help us to learn to deny, carry, and follow. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.**

## OFFERING & HYMN

"Bind Us Together"

The Faith We Sing #2226

## DOXOLOGY\*

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## SENDING & CIRCLE OF BENEDICTION\*

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

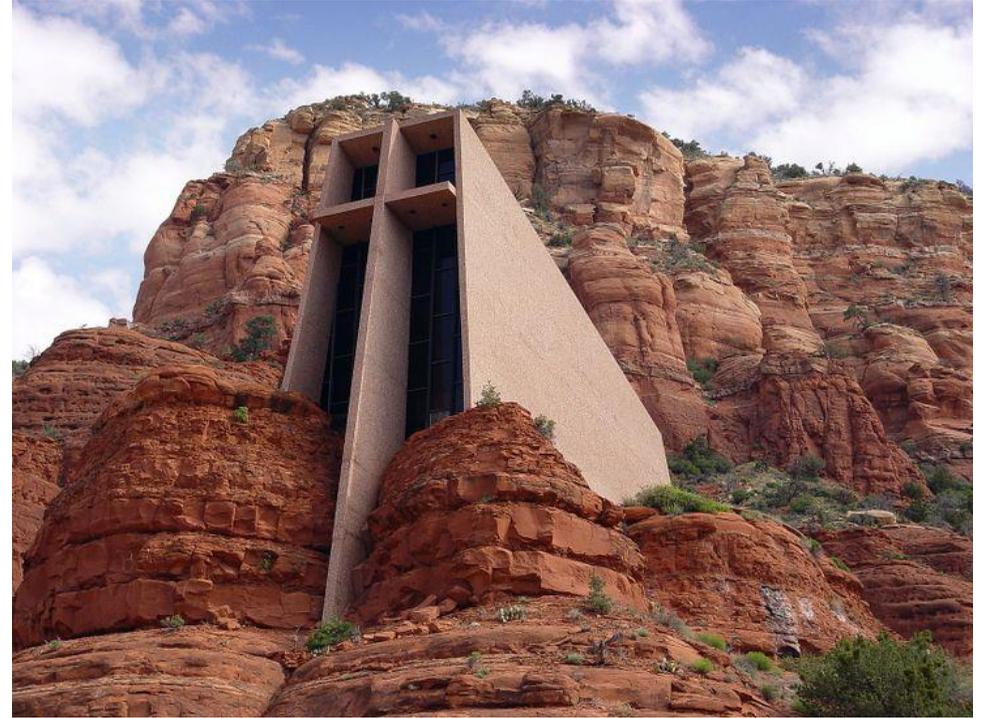
We welcome all persons of every age, gender identity, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, and physical or mental ability into full participation in the life of this faith community. We are committed to the reconciliation of all persons as children of God and declare ourselves to be a Reconciling Congregation.

### CHURCH STAFF & WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev Kent A. Meyer, Ph.D	Guest Preacher
Pastor Anne Kadue	Lead Pastor
Donald Birttnen	Worship Tech Assistant
Stephanie Caughey	Office Administrator
Donna Zilge	Office Assistant
Judy Lieffring	Worship Accompanist & Choir Director
Mike Nelson	Pianist & Bell Choir Director

*You are loved.* ❤️

1596 11th Ave, Newport, MN 55055  
Newport UMC (651) 459-2747 & Community UCC (651) 459-2543  
newportumc.org      stpaulparkucc.org



**Welcome to  
Newport United Methodist Church &  
Community United Church of Christ**

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 27, 2023