

Church Staff and Music Ministry  
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters, Interim Minister  
Sherri Masterson, Youth Fellowship Coordinator  
Joseph Ford, Director of Music  
James N. Shultes, Organist  
Jan Jeffers, Chapel Bells  
Gary Harrington, Sexton  
Donna Piotti, Church Secretary

Church Office Hours:  
Mondays through Thursdays, 9am-Noon, closed Friday.

Pastor Kathleen's time in the office varies each week, but she is available to visit those with special needs or to meet for any other reason. Please feel free to contact her via email: pastor@homercc.org or via her cell phone: (315) 380-0774

HCC website - homercc.com  
Follow Homer Congregational Church on facebook!  
To receive our mid-week email, *Weekday Words*, please email the office

Welcome - We are glad that you have chosen to join us for worship this morning. If you would like additional information about HCC please speak to the pastor or worship leader and plan to join us for refreshments and community time after the service.

Children - We believe children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. A children's bulletin and supplies are available at the entrance to the sanctuary. Nursery care is available.

Prayer request sheets are placed at each entrance. Prayers will be offered later in today's service.

Accessibility - Individual listening headsets are available to provide hearing assistance to any in need. Contact one of the ushers for help.

Miss a Sunday and want to review the bulletin? You can find weekly bulletins at our website:<http://www.homercc.com/resources/>. Share with a friend.

*The Homer Congregational Church*  
*United Church of Christ*  
**November 8, 2015**      **24th Sunday after Pentecost**

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**10:30 am Worship**



*Gathered on the Green in 1801- Still Gathered Doing God's Mission*

## Service of Worship

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Stewardship Sunday

November 8, 2015

10:30 AM

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*Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 20th century*

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

*Michael W. Smith, 21st century*

"I think if the church did what they were supposed to do, we wouldn't have anyone sleeping on the streets."

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### GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE      *Prelude of Consecration*      Lovelace

CHIMES

INTROIT      *Together We Serve*

### THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Unless our GOD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. (*Psalms 127*)

**All: We have come into this house, built by the Holy One, to worship the God of Creation.**

One: Unless our GOD watches over the city, those who watch stand guard in vain.

**All: We have come to listen to the stories of people who throughout the generations have shown us the way by their trust in the promises of God, who is always watching over us.**

One: The widow who gives her last coin and Naomi and Ruth who are lifelong companions for each other remind us of the risks we are free to take with confidence that God will take care of us through times of plenty and times of want, all along our journey through life.

**All: So let us celebrate this gathering which can bind us together. Give thanks that we are no longer strangers with God's people here or throughout the nations. Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN # 606      *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*let us pray together . . .*)  
**Loving God, forgive us when we invest our energies into increasing our personal prosperity rather than enriching people's lives with the good news of your love. Remind us that all that we have is a gift from you and is meant to be shared. It embarrasses us each time we are reminded of the examples of Ruth and the poor widow. Increase our capacity to share your love in word and deed even if this means taking risks and expending whatever energy we may have. Amen.**

#### \*WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE

One: In Jesus Christ we are enriched, we are loved, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## \*MUSICAL RESPONSE

### *We Are Forgiven*

Musical notation for the song 'We Are Forgiven'. It consists of three staves of music in G major, 3/4 time. The lyrics are: 'We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.' The chords are: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

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## GOD'S WORD BOTH ANCIENT AND NEW

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 pg. 243  
Gospel Mark 12:38-44 pg. 49

### ANTHEM

*Zion's Walls*

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*(Children through second grade may go to the nursery.)*

### SERMON

### PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

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.

## OUR COMMITMENTS AND PLEDGES

### AFFIRMATION OF GIVING

I believe that everything I have is God's, given into my keeping for the good of the world. I believe that I am expected to live spiritually, dealing justly with all persons, especially the poor and needy. I believe that my own life and the lives of others will be blessed by my faithfulness in stewardship and devotion to God. Amen.

### THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

#### Invitation to the Offering

(During the Offertory place your offering and your pledge card on the communion table then gather around the sides of the sanctuary for our Response, Prayer of Dedication, Hymn and Benediction.)

#### Offertory

*Morning Hymn and Wedlock*

Held

\*RESPONSE (see insert) *For the Life You Have Given*

\*DEDICATION OF PLEDGES *(Let us pray together. . .)*

God, we lift up our offerings as a sign of our gratitude to you. We lift up our pledges and offer our time, talents and treasures, not for the sake of their appearance, but in gratitude for all you have given us. May we follow in the spirit of the woman who gave her all without hesitation; and dedicate our lives to you. Amen.

### GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

\*HYMN (see insert)

*Together We Serve*

\*BENEDICTION

### CHIMES

#### POSTLUDE

*We Are Marching to Zion*

Held

\*those who are able, please stand.

## For the Life You Have Given

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in  
 Christ made known, with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these  
 gifts that are your own: here we of - fer, Lord, our prais - es;  
 heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to  
 love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

(Words: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987. Music: Leavitt's Christina Lyre, 1830/31.  
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## Together We Serve

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm7)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F Gm Dm7

1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,  
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,  
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,  
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,  
 in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.  
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.  
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong,  
 We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,  
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
 We of - fer a home to those who will come,  
 To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,  
 ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.  
 un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.  
 our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.  
 re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

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**Worship Service**  
**Participants**

***Ushers and Greeters***  
Don VanSlyke,  
the Harrington family

***Worship Leader***  
Joanne Cincotta

***Acolytes***  
Sophia Wright,  
Volunteer

***Nursery Volunteers***  
Susan Benedict,  
Heather O'Hara

***Flowers***  
Sylvia Osterhoudt  
*In memory of Ed*

***Coffee Hour***  
the Dudgeon family

***Attendance***  
November 1 - 76

*Pastor Kathleen's will be away  
this week on continuing  
education. If there is a pastoral  
emergency, please contact Vicki  
Johnson @ 624-9940*

**Life in the Parish**  
**Week of November 8**

**TODAY – November 8**  
*Stewardship Sunday*  
*Youth Group Bake Sale*  
9:15 am – The Well  
9:30 am – Children's Program  
10:30 am – Worship service

**MONDAY – November 9**  
7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets in RFR

**TUESDAY – November 10**  
2:00 pm – Senior Fellowship  
Club

**WEDNESDAY – November 11**  
*Office closed in honor of*  
*Veterans' Day*  
7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

**THURSDAY – November 12**  
Noon – Bible Study Group

**SATURDAY – November 14**  
5:00 - 7:00 pm – Roast Pork  
Dinner

**SUNDAY – November 15**  
9:15 am – The Well  
9:30 am – Children's Program  
10:30 am – Worship service

**NOTES AND NOTICES**

The **Senior Fellowship Club** will meet **Tuesday, November 10**, at **2:00 pm**. Our guest speaker is Kathy Hammond who is with NY Connects at the Office of the Aging. She will discuss long term services and supports to enable people of all ages to remain independent in their daily lives. Anyone who is a caregiver and seeking information is also invited to attend.

Our **Roast Pork Dinner** is **Saturday, November 14**, from **5:00 to 7:00 pm**. It is a big fund raiser for us and everyone can help by volunteering to help or by coming for dinner.

Update from the Transition Team: On **Tuesday, November 17**, from **6:30 – 8:00 pm**, Associate Conference Minister, Freeman Palmer will guide us through a workshop using data from Mission Insite. This information will be used in better understanding our neighborhood and our potential for growth. All are invited.

The **Women's Book Group** will discuss *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith, published in 1943. It is a "coming of age" story in the slums of Brooklyn, but covers three generations of urban life. They will meet **Tuesday, December 1**, at noon for lunch.

The Methodist Food Pantry is anticipating special needs for Thanksgiving Boxes – cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie filling, evaporated milk, corn, green beans, stuffing mix, fruit cocktail. Last month 22 families were fed through the Food Pantry Thank you!

The flower sign-up sheet and coffee hour listing are temporarily on the small table in the Russell Fellowship Room.

**Next Sunday**, the Rev. John Hottenstein will be our guest preacher. Lectionary Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8