



THE FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 3, 2022 | 10:00 AM

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Simple Gifts

arr. M.J. Gallop

WELCOME

Rev. Lynette Ross

If you are visiting FCC, reach out to Rev. Lynette Ross (lynette@fcc-houston.org), our sabbatical Senior Minister to learn more about the church and its ministries. She would be happy to meet with you via Zoom, in person, or over the phone.

*HYMN NO. 80

Our God Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 5:1-14

Roxanne Taylor

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him God had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go, then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his skin disease." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean."

But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of YHWH and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?"

He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Sir, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Naomi Black

SUNG RESPONSE

Don't Be Afraid

John L. Bell

Don't be a-fraid. My love is strong-er, my love is strong-er than your

fear. Don't be a-fraid. My love is strong-er and

I have prom-ised, prom-ised to be al-ways near.

WORDS and MUSIC: John L. Bell
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SERMON

"What is Freedom?"

Rev. Lynette Ross

HYMN

Dream God's Dream

Words & Music by
Bryan Sirchio

Refrain

Dream God's dream! Ho-ly Spir - it__ help us dream of a world where there is
jus - tice_ and where ev - 'ry-one is free to build and grow and love, and to
sim - ply have e - nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.

PASTORAL PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

**Our 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 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.†**

BRING FORTH OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Roxanne Taylor

Checks or cash donations may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the FCC office. The preferred method of giving electronically is through Zelle. Zelle is available through most major bank apps under transfers and incurs no additional fees to either the donor or FCC for the gift. To use Zelle, enter the following email address: financialsecretary@fcc-houston.org. FCC members can also use the Realm app on their phone or computer to make electronic donations. If you don't have the Realm app, please contact Vicki Shimer at vicki@fcc-houston.org for an invitation.

OFFERTORY

Healing River
DANTÉ ANDERSON, SOLOIST

Music by Fred Hellerman
Words by Fran Minkoff

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, triune, whom we adore.
Amen.†

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator, bless these gifts that we bring to this community
and the world. May our time be used preciously, our treasure
shared faithfully, and our talents demonstrated generously
in your name. Amen.†

*HYMN NO. 515

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

*OUR MISSION

Welcome all into an inclusive community;
Seek to follow Jesus' teachings;
Search for more truth and light;
Support one another on our faith journeys;
Strive for peace and justice.†

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in G

Jeremy Bankson

Bold indicates congregational response.

*Please stand if you are able.

† As an inclusive and open faith community, we attempt to convey gender neutral images, terms, and language of God. However, some hymns, anthems, and scriptures from the past will not be changed. See fourth paragraph, page V of Hymns of Truth & Light hymnal for more information.

WORSHIP NOTES:

THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE TODAY WERE DONATED BY Charlotte Haney in loving memory of James Haney who was born on the Fourth of July.

MUSIC COPYRIGHT INFO: All music is reprinted under permission of our OneLicense.net account #A-727634.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE:

For more information or assistance, please speak to one of the ushers. They will be happy to assist you.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

All of the women, people with uteruses, people of color, and people in the LGBTQ+ community who feel despair, anger, confusion, & fear at this time; Wilbur Stilwell, Chuck Stilwell's father; Jim O'Sullivan; Family & friends of Lanell Windham, friend of the Stilwells; Rebecque Demark; Stephanie Fuentes, Amy Stabile's student; Family & Friends of Max Ballock; Patt Ross, Diane Brahm's sister-in-law; Jake Stahl & his family; Family & friends of Carol Riley; Rhonda & Donald Sweeney; Katherine Garcia (Bahr Mahony's sister) Beth Stork; Graces Greves (Heidi Modaro's Niece); Family & Friends of Mary Thomas (Mona Rhines' friend); Vivian Clemons, Jacqueline Lord, & Ethan Beaty (wife, niece, & great-nephew of Chuck Clemons); Sharon Smith, (friend of Diane Brahm); Liz Tucker (daughter of Rachel & Jim Tucker); Brad Gowan (friend of Michael Schafer and Ellen Benninghoven), Family & friends of Shirley Gilford (friend of Joyce Huffman); Jennifer Novak (friend of Janice Vanderbur); Audra Firestone (friend of Naomi Black); Tom Johnson (Martha Johnson's brother); Lindsey Byrd (daughter-in-law of Paul & Mary Byrd); Carlene Shirk; Jade Allen; Lee Menard (friend of Tom O'Neill); Claire Cardwell; Jonathan & Carolyn Hutchison (Naomi Black's brother & sister-in-law); Joel Fokom (father of one of Heather Davis' Brownie Girl Scouts); Jennifer Schafer (Michael Schafer's daughter-in-law); John & Sue Anne Pieroni (Mary Harper's brother and sister-in-law); Jennifer Chapin (Robin Stilwell's friend); John Stroehlein (MaryBeth Baun Pappas' friend); Mark Scallan; Frances Davis (Mary Harper's friend); Jenny Johnston (Krysia Lynes' friend).

NEXT WEEK: THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon: "Preparing for the Journey. Spirituality and the Twelve Steps:
The Power of Surrender" by Rev. Lynette Ross

Scripture: Matthew 7:7-14

MASKS IN WORSHIP

Worship is mask optional, but given the rising numbers of COVID cases, we prefer you to wear a mask, even if you are vaccinated.

COFFEE, TEA, & CONVERSATION

Please join us in the Assembly Room on Sunday, immediately after worship, for fellowship and refreshments.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

There will be Children's Sunday School this Sunday for youth ages 5-13. If your child has not attended Sunday School in the past, please be sure to see Olivia in the Narthex before service to sign them up, or email olivia@fcc-houston.org.

PEACE CAMP HOUSTON • JUNE - AUGUST (VARIOUS DATES)

The Church in Society Board (CIS) is announcing upcoming Peace Camp, a day camp sponsored by Houston Peace and Justice Center for students in grades 1- 6 and 7-12. The camps are held for a week at three different locations in Houston. Details regarding registration, dates and tuition can be found at hpjc.org/peace-camp/. Scholarships are available. Further questions, call Janet Rexroad at 832-877-2813 or Robin Stillwell at 713-702-9448.

BLOOD DRIVE • NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 10

We will be holding a blood drive next Sunday, July 10 from 9 AM to 1 PM in the Assembly Room. If you would like to donate, please sign up at https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/337383.

MAM GROUP VOLUNTEER EVENT • JULY 14, 6-8 PM

FCC's next Mission event is an evening at the MAM Resale store. We will be sorting donations, hanging clothes, straightening displays, and helping at the checkout. MAM helps create financially stable families, a stronger workforce, and a healthy, supportive community. MAM resale is a clean, organized, fun resale store that collects and sells donated items. Money made from the resale store goes back to the community by funding our services. Currently the Rahmatzada family is taking ESL classes at MAM, and we have been able to supply rugs and small appliances in a cost effective way from the store thanks to Chuck Stilwell who puts his carpentry skills to use repairing furniture. We have room for eight volunteers. All volunteers must be at least 13 years of age. Volunteers 13-15 years old must be accompanied by a parent and 16 years and older may work alone. Volunteers must wear long pants, shirt with sleeves, and closed-toe shoes. To join in the fun, please contact Krysia at missions@fcc-houston.org or 919-636-1137.

SAVE THE DATE: RELIGIONS OF SOUTHWEST HOUSTON TOUR SATURDAY, JULY 23

In partnership with Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, we will be offering a tour of three spiritual communities in Southwest Houston on Saturday, July 23. The event is open to Middle School & High School youth & parents, but all interested adults are welcome. For questions or to register, contact Olivia at olivia@fcc-houston.org, Pastor Lynette at lynette@fcc-houston.org, or fill out the back of your connection card. More information coming soon!

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE UPDATE

We are in our fourth month of the six-month commitment to assist Interfaith Ministries in supporting several refugee families. As you know, we have been assisting 7 families to get resettled here in Houston, in various ways. We recently have been assisting 4-6 more families who are in need of furniture and household goods. Ongoing activities we are assisting with include assisting with childcare, moving & supplying furniture, assisting with english-language acquisition, and providing sewing machines for families.

Please contact Chuck Stilwell (406-491-1129 or chuckstilwell58@gmail.com) or Jim Tucker (301-807-9255 or jtuckergeo@aol.com) if you're interested in volunteering or helping with material goods. Finally, in addition to the core group of 8-10 volunteers assisting with the families, we want to give a big thank you to the numerous FCC members and visitors who have provided monetary and material donations over the last 4 months. Numerous household goods, personal items, and over \$3000 of donations have been received so far. This project has truly been a church-wide effort.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

If you would like to make an announcement, please email your submissions to the office at office@fcc-houston.org **before 2 PM** on Wednesdays.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HOUSTON

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Church Officers:

Moderator: Pat Rickey | moderator@fcc-houston.org

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Church Council Members:

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UCC Delegates:

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Sue Earl | jearl8925@sbcglobal.net

Chuck Stilwell | chuckstilwell58@gmail.com

In case of emergencies, contact Rev. Lynette Ross at 281-235-5394.



FCC is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We joyfully welcome everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.