First Congregational United Church of Christ
615 N. First Street, DeKalb, Illinois 60115
815-758-0691 www.UCCDekalb.org

August 8, 2021
11th Sunday after Pentecost

Our Mission:
To embody God’s love for all by living an active faith in service to others.

We Gather to Affirm God’s Presence in Our Lives

May the God we sing to, pray to, and speak to throughout the day bless you and keep you safe.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: Come, Holy Spirit.
Unison: Come among us.
Leader: Come Holy Spirit
Unison: Come as the wind to move us.
Leader: Come, Holy Spirit
Unison: Come Power of all powers.
Refresh us. Come Holy Spirit.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION
Unison: God of all mercy, we confess before you and each other that we have been unfaithful to you. We lack love for our neighbors, we waste opportunities to do good, and we look the other way when you cry out to us in the suffering of those in need. We are sincerely sorry for our sins,
both those we commit deliberately and those that we allow to overtake us.
We ask your forgiveness and pray for strength that we may follow in your way and love all your people with that perfect love which casts out all fear; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

SILENCE (be as specific as you wish)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness verses 1,4 NCH 286

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READINGS
John 3: 1-8
Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Galatians 5: 19-26
19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
The Fruit of the Spirit
22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law
And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

HYMN There Are Some Things I May Not Know verses 1,2 NCH 405

SERMON What test do you want to take?

HYMN Come to Tend God’s Garden NCH 586

BENEDICTION

PRAYER

Unison: May the strength of God guide us, the power of God preserve us, the wisdom of God instruct us, the Spirit of God be within us, this day and forevermore.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
SERVING THE CONGREGATION TODAY
Ministers: All of Us
Pastor: Alan McNamara
Organist: Brian Kowalski
Singers: Ashley Kelly, Grace Klonoski, and Olivia Klonoski
Liturgist: Jan Graefen
Audio: Tom Spielman
Video: Tom Spielman

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness, James K. Manley, 1978, alt., © 1995 The New Century Hymnal, All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License # 737648-A. All rights reserved.

There Are Some Things I Do Not Know, Kenneth Morris, 1942, alt., © 1995 The New Century Hymnal, All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License # 737648-A. All rights reserved.

Come to Tend God’s Garden, John A. Dalles, 1992, © 1995 Chalice Hymnal, All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License # 737648-A. All rights reserved.
Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Unison, brightly
Refrain

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the

wilder-ness, call-ing and free,

Spirit, spirit of restless-ness, stir me from

placid-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the wa-ters, you called to the
2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the
3 You sang in a sta-ble, you cried from a
4 You call from to-mor-row, you break an-cient
deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the
sand, and you goaded your people with a
hill, then you whispered in silence when the
schemes, from the bondage of sorrow the

valleys of sleep; And over the eons you
law and a land; When they were confounded by their
whole world was still; And down in the city you
captives dream dreams; Our women see visions, our

called to each thing, "Awake from your slumber
idols and lies, then you spoke through your proph-
called once again, when you blew through your peo-
men clear their eyes. With bold new decrees

bers and rise on your wings.
ets to open their eyes.
ple on the rush of the wind.
sions your people arise.
There Are Some Things I May Not Know
(Yes, God Is Real)

Kenneth Morris, 1942; alt.

1 There are some things I may not know, there are some
2 Some folks may doubt, some folks may scorn, all can de-
3 I can not tell just how you felt when Jesus

places I can't go, But I am sure of this one
sert and leave me a lone, But as for me I'll take God's
took your sins away, But since that day, yes, since that

thing, that God is real for I can feel God deep within.
part, for God is real and I can feel God in my heart.
hour, God has been real for I can feel God's holy power.

Refrain

Yes, God is real, real in my soul; yes, God is real for God has

washed and made me whole; God's love for me is like pure

gold, yes, God is real for I can feel God in my soul.
Come to Tend God’s Garden

1 Come to tend God’s garden, seeds of hope to sow, planting fields of justice, watch mercy grow! In an arid wasteland,

2 As we tend God’s garden, from its fur-rows rise stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the skies! Gracious-ness, our meadow, actions, every word and deed! Serving Christ each season,

3 May God’s garden flourish, may our toil succeed, may God bless our joy-fulness, our root, unity, our foliage, righteous-ness, our fruit! With God’s dia-gram, charted by the Spir-it, for the task at hand!