

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 17, 2025

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Restore Us

There comes a time in life when you wake up one morning and stare into the mirror wondering who that person is staring back at you.

Perhaps it is a few more gray hairs or a new wrinkle that makes the reflection unrecognizable. Or maybe it's not your physical appearance, but rather a hollow feeling in your gut reminding you that somewhere on the road of life you took a wrong turn and don't know the way back to who you were or who you wanted to be.

If this was the morning that such reality splashed your face, take heart. You are not alone as each of us, one day or another, stand in the need of God's restoration.

Luckily, God is in the business of restoring what is lost — be it our dreams, our hopes or our trust in goodness in the world. We just need to cry out to God, asking for help.

Psalm 80 is such a cry. In this often overlooked plea for restoration and salvation, the psalmist brings to us a soaring and emotional song, complete with the refrain, "Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved."

The setting to the psalm is the aftermath of a crisis where the nation of Israel, described as a vineyard, recognizes that they had a part to play in the destruction of the vines. And in the aftermath of everything that went wrong, Israel remembers once again that the only hope they have is in God. Three times they sing the refrain, "Restore us, God Almighty ..."

Yes, there comes a time in our lives when we wake up and don't recognize the person staring back at us. Somewhere along the way something went awry — a wrong decision, a wrong turn, a bad choice or a sorrowful mistake.

It is then we sing with faith the refrain sang by the helpless and the hopeless, "Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved."

And as we do, know that God hears, God sees and God is at work, restoring us once again.

May today we commit to memory Psalm 80's refrain, turning to it always in our times of need.

Merciful God, we are sorry for forgetting Your ways are always the best for us. Forgive us for the decisions we have made that have created chaos and confusion in our lives. Restore us now and may Your face shine upon us this day and always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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St. John's United Church of Christ
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
 August 17, 2025



* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. **Bold print** is everyone in unison

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER (be seated)

PRELUDE

CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship)

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Come, gather together and let us give God praise.

Let us sing of God's love and God's amazing grace.

May we give God praise for God's forgiveness and mercy.

Let us sing of God's justice and compassion.

May we give God praise for all the wondrous acts from God to all the earth's people.

Let us sing of our praises to God and worship God with our hearts and minds fully.

* **OPENING HYMN** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* (vs. 1 & 2) #90

* **WE INVITE GOD TO WORSHIP** (unison)

Holy God, we receive your invitation to worship you with joy and thanks. We enter your presence to acknowledge you as our creator, redeemer, rock and guide. You alone are holy and worthy of the devotion and adoration of our hearts. We thank you for your presence which is constant, your grace which is limitless, your love which is unending. We praise you for your mighty acts, your faithful word and your ageless wisdom. Prepare our hearts that in this hour all that we do may honor you as Lord. Amen.

* **RESPONSE** *When in Awe of God's Creation* (v. 1) #688

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children please come forward) *Jesus Loves Me*

OFFERING INVITATION**

Let us give back to God with gratitude and thanksgiving for all blessings.

* **DOXOLOGY** #46

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Great God, we present now our gifts to you for the work and ministry of Christ's church. As we offer these our financial resources, may we anew offer our lives. Take and utilize all that we are so that in our lives others will know love; in Jesus name. Amen.

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

Silent Prayers – Pastoral Prayer-The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Congregational Response: *How Great Thou Art* (chorus only) #33

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

New Testament: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

The Word of God for the People of God **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE *Status Quo or Status Go*

* **CLOSING HYMN** *How Firm a Foundation* (vs. 1 & 2) #618

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

Go now and follow the words of the great prophet Micah, "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

As we bear witness to the life of faith lived wholly for God, others too will come to know God and live in abundance. Amen.

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *God Be With You* (v.1-no chorus) #434

* **POSTLUDE**

**You may place your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary or online at myucc.org and clicking on the *contribute* button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to continue our outreach into the community.

Announcements

You may place your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary or online at myucc.org and clicking on the contribute button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to continue our outreach into the community.

While we don't have a **permanent church secretary**, volunteers will be manning the office Monday through Friday from 9 am to 12:30 pm.

Our **Vacation Bible School offering** this year will go to The Knox County Humane Society, which is literally located on Main Street (just like our VBS)! In the rear of the sanctuary you will find a "parking meter". Please contribute your loose change, (bills are accepted, of course) each week of VBS and let's watch our giving grow to support this worthwhile cause.

Thank you!

The Blessings Box needs donations. Suggestions are: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, Velveeta mac & cheese (doesn't require milk or butter), canned pastas, soups, crackers. Cans with pop top lids are best.

Messy Church Returns on September 3rd from 5:30-7:00 pm featuring the theme of *Bee-Attitudes*. Our Scripture will be the *Beatitudes* from Matthew 5:1-12 and we will have lots of "Bee" related games, crafts and activities. Dinner will be mini corn dogs, mac & cheese and veggies. Plan now to participate and join us for a great evening of Food, Fun and Fellowship. Invite your friends!



Prayers and Posts

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr. Pat Hutchinson, The Family of Laura Sanders, The Family of Carol Graham, John Spanger, Mark Schutter, Kelvin Strange, Wayne Baker, Lynne Simmons, Katrina Memering, Jasmine Zeller, The Family of Sam (Dick) Goodman, and Ted Lowe.



Shut-in Addresses:

Susie Milligan - Colonial Assisted Living, Room 118, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591
Leona Conway - Aperia Care, C Wing Room C-35, 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 47591
Marge Beamon - The Villages at Oak Ridge, Room 303, 1694 Troy Road, Washington, IN 47501

At Home:

Bruce Deckard
Gary Meyer
Mike Lankford

Until further notice, all prayer requests or updates should be relayed to Janet Goodman instead of the church office. Email: terrybaseball@gmail.com
Text or phone call: 812-887-2797.

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, August 17th

Adult SS Classes 9:15 am
Vacation Bible School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday, August 20th

September Newsletter Items Due

Friday, August 22nd

Indiana Kentucky Conference

Monday, August 18th

BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5 - 6:30pm @ Ader Auditorium
Outreach & Benevolence Mtg. 5:00 pm
Music & Worship Mtg. 6 pm
Church Board 7 pm

Thursday, August 21st

Dinner & Conversation - Dragon 2000 6 pm

Saturday, August 23rd

Indiana Kentucky Conference

Looking Ahead In August

Sunday, August 24th

Adult SS Classes 9:15 am
Vacation Bible School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am
VBS Presentation During Worship
Fellowship

Wednesday, August 27th

Laundry Love 6-8 pm
Choir Practice 7 pm

Monday, August 25th

BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5 - 6:30pm @ Ader Auditorium

Thursday, August 28th

Dinner & Conversation - Kelso's 6 pm



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist:	Sandra Lange
Head Usher:	Mark Schutz
Organist:	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist:	Becky Brockman
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant:	Darcie Bahr
Projection:	Jana Vieck
Sound:	Lonny Vieck
Church Board President:	Ed Cummings

Did You Know?

St. John's Sunday Morning Worship Services are streamed **LIVE** on our church's Facebook page, "**St. John's United Church of Christ Vincennes.**"

Or, you can watch the Worship Service at your convenience by going on the church website, "**myucc.org**" and clicking on "Worship Service" for a particular date.

You can also download a copy of each monthly **church newsletter** from our church website to keep up with all the activities.

