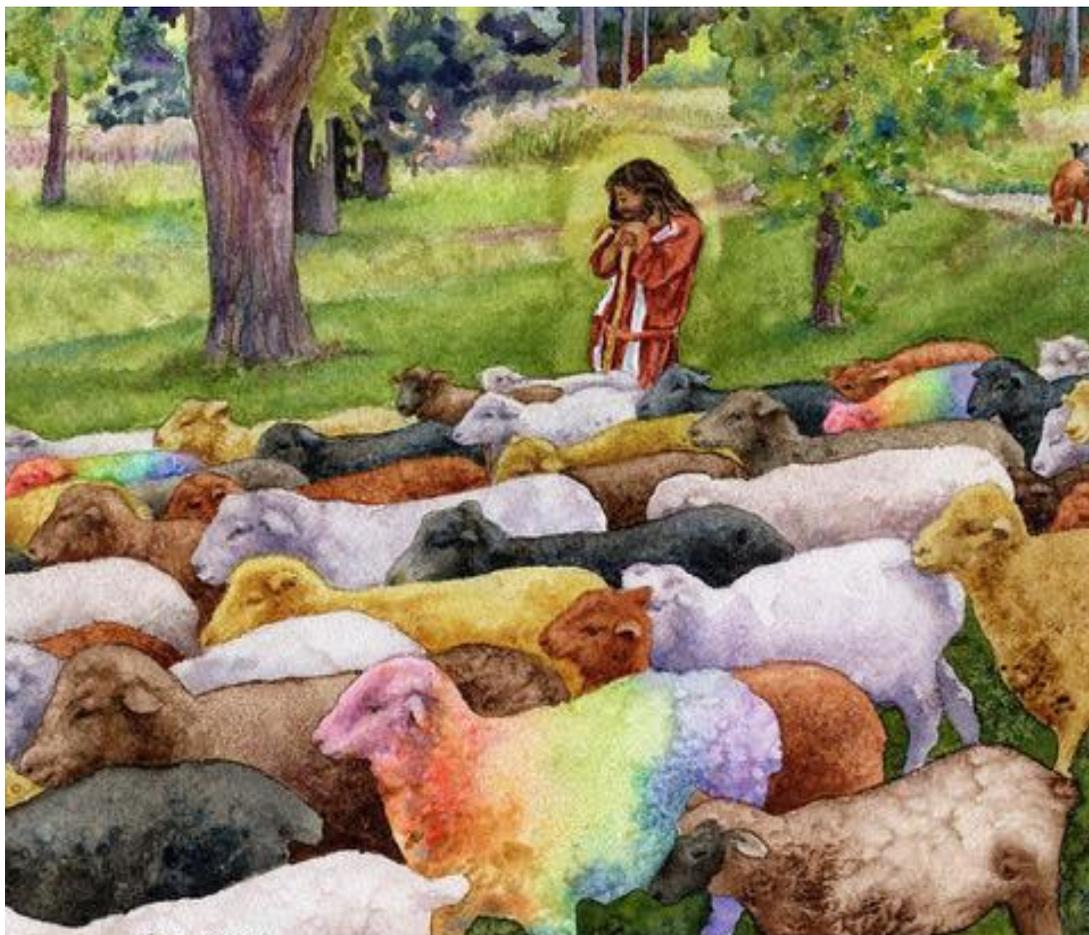


***THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ALMADEN VALLEY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation
July 25, 2021
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost***



***Artwork by Anne Gifford
Boulder, Colorado
www.annegifford.com***

**An Order of Worship for July 25, 2021
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**

Welcome and Greetings

Sounding of the Bell

Prelude

Ilya Blinov

Lighting of the Peace Candle

In silence we light the peace candle. May its light illuminate the path of peace and justice for God's creation.

~~~*Moments of Silence*~~~

**Call to Worship\***

**L:** We have been given a ministry of reconciliation and sharing.

**P:** **God reconciled us to God's self through the witness of Jesus Christ.**

**L:** No longer do we need to fear.

**P:** **Hope has been given to us.**

**L:** God is appealing to all humankind through us - in all that we say, think and do.

**P:** **Praise be to God who has placed trust in us. We will strive to serve God faithfully. AMEN.**

**Invocation\***

How incredible is your love, O God! We have been made new in your love and reconciled to you and to each other in peace and joy. Be with us this day as we hear your words of comfort and hope. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all of our days. AMEN.

**Opening Hymn**

**God Is My Shepherd**

**CH No. 79**

**Reading from the Gospel**

**Luke 15:1-10 (NIV)**

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine

*Bold Print indicates congregation responds*

NOTE CH= Chalice Hymnal , NCH = New Century Hymnal

righteous persons who do not need to repent.

8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**Response**

**Thy Word**

**CH No. 326**

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

**Special Music**

**Ilya Blinov**

**Sermon**

**“On the Lam”**

**Hymn of Response**

**Oh God, How We Have Wandered**

**NCH No. 202**

**Prayers of the People**

**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.

**Call to Offering\***

Like a shepherd tending to those in their care,  
God has offered us rest and renewal,  
protection and mercy,  
love and nourishment.

In response, we are invited to give a portion of our time, energy, gifts, and prayers so that others in this world may experience the same.

**Doxology**

**OLD HUNDREDTH**

**(NCH, No 778)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

**Dedication of Our Offerings\***

Loving God,  
Bless these gifts and all the ways in which we give.  
May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating  
and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity  
You envision for the world. **AMEN**

**Benediction\*** *(based on Psalm 16)***Rev. Shelly**

As we close this time together, remember: God is always with you. No matter what you face, no matter what trials or hardships come your way, God is right beside you, always filling your cup to overflowing, guiding and directing your path. So, acknowledge your fear and your worry and know it is as true and holy as any feeling, including joy and hope and love. Take heart! This is the heart of the matter. Amen.

**Shalom****Peace I Leave With You**

Peace I leave with you, my friends; Shalom, my peace in all you do;  
Peace I leave with you, my friends; I give to you, so you can give to others too.

**Postlude****Ilya Blinov**

*Worship has ended, let the service begin!*

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\*Worship Materials: \*Call to Offering and Prayer of Dedication were written by the Rev. Ellis Arnold, ACM for the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences of the UCC. Copyright 2021 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ. Obtained from Worship Ways and used with permission.

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Cover Art:

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**Welcome to our church, a sacred space where, indeed, all are welcome. A special greeting if you are a visitor with us today.**

**Worship Leader: Kelly Yamanishi**

**Reader: Bonnie Graham**

**Special Music: Ilya Blinov**

**IT and Social Media Guru: Kelly Yamanishi**

**BIRTHDAYS: John Hawes 07/24**

**Contacting each other:** Ruthanne is working from home. If you need to call the "office," please use her cell phone as the work number: (408) 482-4014. Please also feel free to reach out to Debbie Bemis via email, text, or phone. Debbie's cell number is: (408) 425-5272, and her email is: [debbiebemis@gmail.com](mailto:debbiebemis@gmail.com) Don't hesitate to reach out or check in as needed. Debbie would love to hear from you.

In addition, Pastor Shelly's contact information is as follows: (352) 359-1869 and wilsonshellya@yahoo.com Don't hesitate to reach out or check in as needed. Any of us would love to hear from you.

**Needs?** Do you need someone to pick something up for you? Do you need a ride somewhere? Would you appreciate a listening ear? Would you like a friendly chat? Do you need something taken care in your home that is difficult for you to do yourself? Are you feeling anxious and need a friend? Please call Debbie — or anyone on council — to let us know how we can support you. I guarantee someone will respond and will offer you the support you are looking for.

**Pray for one another and the world:**

**Please send your prayer concerns to Debbie and/or Phyllis Chai so we can add them to our list and keep connected with one another through prayer.**

**This week's prayers -7/21/21**

\* Prayers of healing for Lawson, Ruthanne's father, who is in the hospital awaiting surgery to repair his heart.

\* Prayers for the people of Kamiah, Idaho, including the daughter and grandson of Pat M, who are dealing with the Dixie fire.

**Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving**

\* Prayers for Diane Hawes who is flying to Hawaii to be with her granddaughter for a 2020 graduation present.

\* Prayers of joy and gratitude for the life of Rob Hawes, who continues to do well and is making future plans in spite of a diagnosis that predicted he would live only six more months.

\* Prayers of joy for Toh-Bee as she prepares to move to her new home in Boise next year.

\* For good friends and neighbors of Betty B, helping her to cope with her broken wrist after a fall -- and prayers for Betty as she recovers.

**Rest in Peace -**

\*Prayers of comfort for the loved ones of Sandra Mueller, former ECA member, who passed away this week after her battle with cancer. Let us keep Ed, Sandy's husband, front and center in our hearts as he deals with his loss.

\*Prayers of comfort for the Langley and Colter families (friends of the Yamanishi's), who lost loved ones in a tragic car accident recently.

\* Prayers for the family of Neil, an 11 year old boy who was run over by accident, and prayers also for the driver of the car and for the first responders who attended to him.

## **Continued Prayers – 7/21/21**

### **Prayers for Healing and Health Challenges**

Rob H., Maria B., Sandy, Lee C., Lily R., Cheryl, Bob H, Jerry and wife Kathy (Betty's brother and sister-in-law), Sandra M., Win H (friend of Kathy),, Karen, Eden (Perla's sister), Gwen H., Amy, Cora and family, Adam and wife Kelli (Audrey's daughter and son-in-law), Paulie, Marion (friend of Mike and Connie), Lucy B., Wendy (Pauline's sister), Dona, Charlotte (friend of Harriet), Pinkard family, Sean (friend of Dennis E.), Eda and Joe (friends of Dennis and Judy), Lawson (Ruthanne's father)

### **Prayers for Those at Home**

Shirley L., Audrey W., Bessie H., Charles K., Rae and Dave H., Dot A., Joan O., Dick & Jean S., Bob & Phyllis G.

## **JOINT VENTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR ECA FAITH COMMUNITY**

You are invited to join the **Meditation Group on Zoom on Wednesdays at 10 am.** Focus: to spend **20 min of silence together** in the presence of our Creator. **We find unity by being quiet together.** All faiths and those with no faith tradition are invited. You may invite friends. Questions: contact Marianneschmidt8025@gmail.com

Zoom link can be found in the midweek.



CCAV Pastor ..... Rev. Dr. Shelly Wilson  
 CCAV Moderator ..... Debbie Bemis (debbiebemis@gmail.com)  
 Music Director/Pianist ..... Ilya Blinov  
 JV Handbell Director ..... Ruthanne Adams Martinez  
 CCAV Folk Music Director ..... John Hawes  
 Webmaster www.ccavucc.org ..... Kelly Yamanishi  
 JV Administrative Assistant ..... Ruthanne Adams Martinez  
 ..... (office@jointventurechurches.org)

**Church Address: 6581 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120 www.ccavucc.org**

**Check out our Facebook page:** Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC.  
<https://www.facebook.com/CCAUVUCC>

**We extend a special welcome if you are a visitor with us. Please sign our guest book in the narthex and speak to our ushers regarding more information about our church. We share our “open and affirming statement” and want you to know that “wherever you are along your life’s journey, whatever your name, however you feel, you are welcome here.”**



Open and Affirming Statement

*We the members of The Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, United Church of Christ, seek a deeper understanding of God’s grace as it moves through the life of our church. We are called by Christ and empowered by God to love all people and affirm the sacred worth and dignity of each individual. We invite into the full life and ministry of our church all people, recognizing no boundaries of age, race, education, ethnic origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, economic circumstance or family structure. We embrace our diversity of thought and scriptural understanding, and we respect and honor all who seek to be in covenant with us as we share in the joys and responsibilities of our church family.*

