Community Congregational Church
of Clinton Heights, UCC

**July 9, 2023**

**The Reverend Sarah A. Bowen**

### Welcome

### Call to Worship*Adapted from Thom Shuman*

One: Here, in this place,

**All: … God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters.**

One: Here, in this place,

**All: … the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name and receive support.**

One: Here, in this time,

All: **… we can remember all the ways God has graced us.**

One: Here, in these moments together this morning,

All: **… we are gathered, daring enough to step out of our comfort zone into connection with something greater than our own thoughts.**

One: Here, in this space of faith,

**All: We will find the courage to ask for divine help for every situation.**

Opening Prayer

*Adapted from Lyndale United Church of Christ, Minneapolis*

Source of Life who is known by many names; Over-turner and illuminator of hearts; we gather with gratitude for the earth and all who journey in it. We give thanks for the interconnectedness of all creation.

Source of justice who is known by many names; let us not swerve from the path of righteousness that leads to just and equitable relationships. Open our eyes to see all the roles that help sustain us—the farm worker, the teacher, the line cook, the childcare provider, the healthcare worker.

Give us the will to leave behind the safety of our built sanctuaries to become your living sanctuary, and claim our place to help transform creation; that our voice, our heart, our spirit will join the voices of all who desire to live with respect, justice, and peace.

Hymn

Children’s Sermon
*Making Choices*

Scripture Reading

*Romans 7:15-25a*

Hymn

Sermon

*When Our Minds Miss the Mark… and What to Do About It*

Hymn

Prayers for Others & Ourselves

Lord’s Prayer
(using debts/debtors)

Offering

Doxology

Hymn

Announcements

Commission and Benediction Postlude

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1) Visit the church website at **www.clintonheightsucc.org**,

2) Click on the **Donate Now** button,

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# Romans 7:15-25aNew Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17 But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.