



CENTRAL ST MATTHEW
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Bringing New Orleans Together

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

July 26th | 10 am

“NOTHING!”

Rev. Peter Scie



Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ

Order of Service

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

July 26, 2026

(At the asterisk*, all who are able, please stand. Congregation responses are in **bold**)

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

“Jesus Loves Me”

arr. Greg Howlett

Lighting of Candles

Acolyte

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Curry Miller

Leader: Who can separate us from the love of God?

People: Nothing in all creation can separate us from God’s love.

Leader: When we are weak and cannot find the words to pray, the Spirit helps us.

People: God hears our sighs, understands our tears, and holds us close.

Leader: Because God has loved us faithfully, we are called to love one another courageously.

People: We will put love into action through compassion, justice, welcome, and service.

Leader: Let us worship the God whose love never lets us go.

People: We come to worship with grateful hearts and lives ready to serve.

***Opening Hymn**

“Sanctuary”

TWFS #2164

***Invocation**

Loving God, you meet us in our weakness, strengthen us in our struggles, and hold us through every season of life. Open our hearts to receive your transforming love. Open our eyes to recognize the needs of our neighbors. Open our hands so that the love we proclaim may become justice, compassion, welcome, and action. May our worship renew us to become visible signs of your love in the world. Amen.

Anthem

“My Tribute”
(Amy Hamilton, Soprano)

by Andrè Crouch

Scripture Reading

The Psalter

Psalms 119:129–136

The Epistle

Romans 8:26-39

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Children's Sermon

"God's Love Never Let's Go!"

Rev. Peter Scie

(All the children are invited to come forward as all sing)

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread & cup, prayer & song: This is where children belong.**

Call to Reconciliation

God's love does not abandon us when we fall short. With honesty and humility, let us confess the ways we have received love without sharing it, spoken of justice without practicing it, and overlooked the cries of our neighbors.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, forgive us when we speak about love but fail to live lovingly. Forgive us when comfort becomes more important than compassion, when silence becomes easier than speaking against injustice, and when we ignore those who are hurting, excluded, or afraid. Free us from fear, indifference, and selfishness. Teach us to love not only with our words, but through courageous choices, generous service, radical welcome, and faithful action. Amen.

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: neither hardship nor failure, neither the present nor the future, nor anything else in all creation can separate us from the love of God revealed in Christ Jesus.

God's grace meets us, forgives us, restores us, and sends us forward with new purpose.

We are forgiven, we are beloved, and we are empowered to love. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Passing of Peace**

*Please turn to your neighbor and say "The Peace of Christ be with you,"
and respond by saying, "And also with you."*

***Pulpit Hymn**

"If It Had Not Been for the Lord"

TWFS #2053

Sermon

"NOTHING!"

Rev. Peter Scie

The Prayer of the The People and the Lord's Prayer

The Offering

Offertory Sentence

2 Corinthians 8:9

"You are well acquainted with the favor shown by our Savior Jesus Christ, who, though rich, became poor for your sake, so that you might become rich by Christ's poverty."

AAHH #378

NCH #781

**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.**

AAHH #440

Acolyte

TFWS #2226

(Please join the Circle of Friendship)

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

There is only one God, there is only one king. There is only one body.

That is why we sing. Bind us together...

*Benediction

Traditional

*Altar Flowers are given in Memory of Pearline Culbert
by Alvertha and Autsin Penny*

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Illustrations by Emma Harlan