



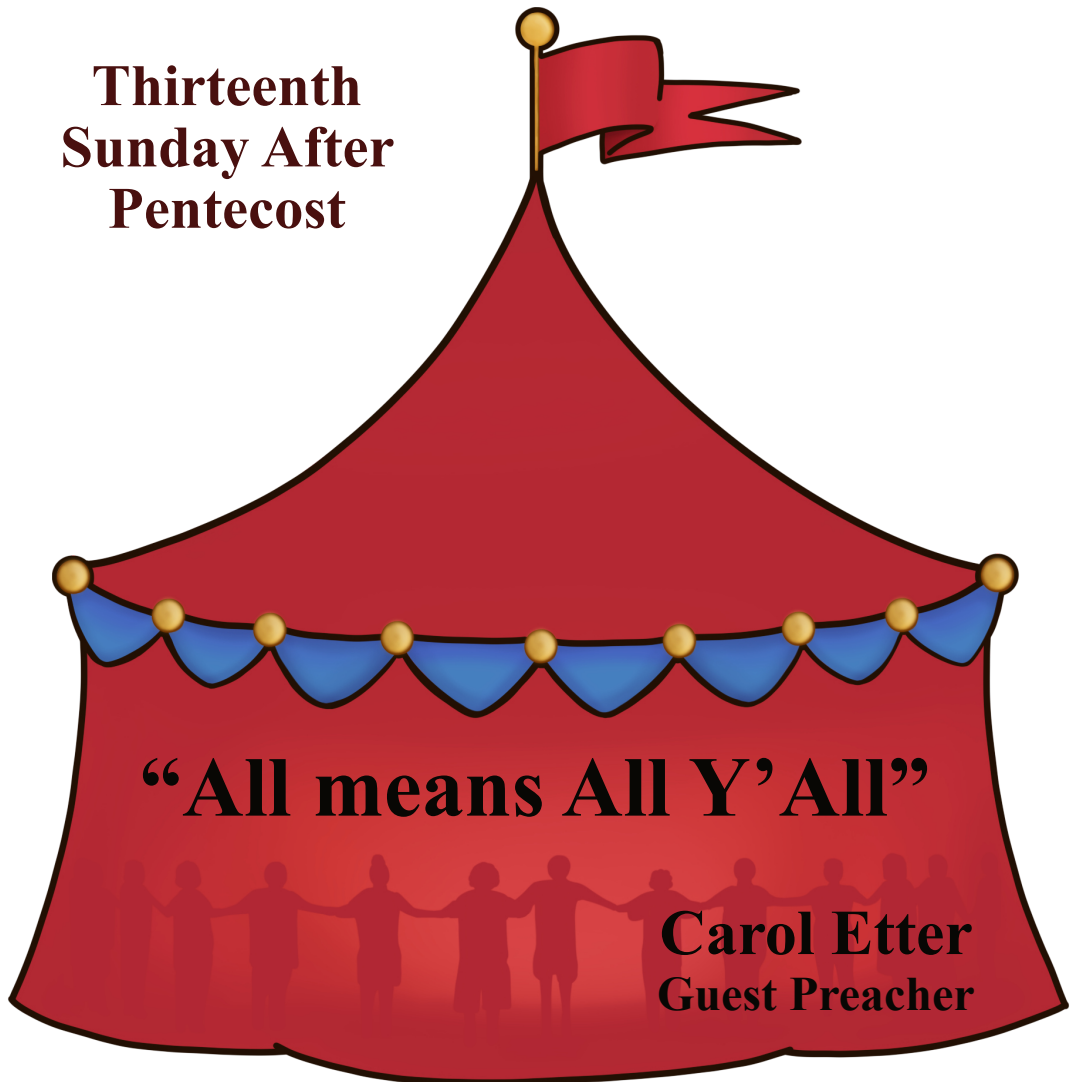
CENTRAL ST MATTHEW

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bringing New Orleans Together

August 23rd | 10 am

**Thirteenth
Sunday After
Pentecost**



“All means All Y’ All”

Carol Etter
Guest Preacher

Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost Order of Service**August 23, 2026**

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

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude *“Steal Away”* arr. Calvin Taylor

Lighting of Candles Acolyte

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** Rev. Peter Scie

Leader: Come, people of God, into the presence of the One who hears the cries of the oppressed.

People: We come trusting the promises of God, whose words are pure and whose justice endures.

Leader: Christ meets us in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, the vulnerable, and the imprisoned.

People: May our worship teach us to recognize the sacred worth of every person.

Leader: When God says love your neighbor, there are no exceptions.

**People: When Christ calls us to serve, no one is outside the circle of compassion.
We gather believing that all means all! Let us worship God together.**

***Opening Hymn** *“I Will Call Upon the Lord”* AAHH #109

***Invocation**

God of justice, compassion, and liberating love, meet us in this sacred moment. Open our eyes to recognize you in those the world ignores, open our ears to hear the cries of those pushed aside, and open our hearts so that our faith becomes action. Remind us that your love does not discriminate, your grace does not exclude, and your table has room for us all. Transform our worship into witness, our prayers into compassion, and our compassion into justice. Amen.

Anthem *“He Has Done Marvelous”* by Pastor LaRue F. Kidd

Scripture Reading

The Psalter Psalm 12
The Gospel Matthew 25: 31-46
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Children's Sermon

Carol Etter

(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

Jesus teaches us that how we treat one another matters. When we neglect the hungry, reject the stranger, ignore suffering, or remain silent while others are harmed, we fail to recognize the image of God before us. Trusting in divine mercy, let us confess the ways we have limited a love that God intends for all.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, forgive us when our definition of "all" has included exceptions. Forgive us when we have welcomed some while excluding others, spoken of love while withholding compassion, or worshiped you while overlooking our neighbors in need. Forgive us for the times silence has replaced courage and comfort has prevented us from pursuing justice. Give us eyes to see Christ in every person, hearts courageous enough to love without condition, and hands willing to participate in the liberation and healing of our communities. Teach us again that when you say all, you mean all. Amen.

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the promise of God: the cries of the oppressed do not go unheard, the vulnerable are not forgotten, and mercy continues to call us forward. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and invited again into the work of love. We receive grace, and we rise to become instruments of grace. Go forward loving boldly, serving freely, welcoming completely, and remembering: **All means all and there is room for everyone in the beloved community of 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

"God of the Poor"

Insert

Sermon

"All means All Y' All"

Carol Etter

The Prayer of The People and the Lord's Prayer

The Offering

Offertory Sentence

Psalm 4:5

"Offer sacrifices of justice, and put your trust in YHWH."

NCH #474

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 #633

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

by Johann Christian Kittel

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God

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Illustrations by Emma Harlan