

**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
River Falls, Wisconsin**

**July 6, 2025**



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**

July 6, 2025

*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

9:30 am

<b>Gathering</b>
------------------

Christ has no body on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out to the world.  
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.  
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless others now.  
- St. Teresa of Avila

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Activity bags are available for children.</li><li>- Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.</li><li>- Please stand when noted by the *</li><li>- Congregation responses are in bold.</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Please stop at the welcome station for a gift.</li><li>- Please note our worship service is livestreamed.</li></ul>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------






**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** A summer stillness rests in each morning.

**P:** **Taste and see how good God is.**

**L:** A summer vacation opens the vistas of God's creation.

**P:** **Taste and see how good God is.**

**L:** Long days of light, picnics and play until night.

**P:** **Taste and see how good God is.**

**L:** Summer wonder, summer rest, summer worship.

**P:** **Taste and see how good God is.**

**All:** **Today we not only hear and sing, but we also taste and see how good God is.  
Come let us worship!**

**\*HYMN**

*I'll Fly away*

**Black #595**

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

- L: For the times we have lied to one another and the times we have been lied to,  
**P: Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**
- L: For the times we have laughed at another's pain and the times we have been laughed at,  
**P: Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**
- L: For the times we have spoken when we should have remained silent and the times we have remained silent when we should have spoken,  
**P: Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**
- L: For the times we have not respected another's freedom to be different from us,  
**P: Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**
- L: For the times we have betrayed a friend and the times we have been betrayed,  
**P: Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**
- All: Teach us to empty ourselves of the things that destroy us and keep us alone. Empty us of our jealousy, of our meanness, of our fear of others. For Jesus' sake. Amen.**

### **\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

- L: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.  
**P: In Christ we are forgiven.**
- L: God's grace is poured out to us freely.  
**P: In Christ we are forgiven.**
- L: In him we are set free from our sin and unburdened from the past.  
**P: In Christ we are forgiven.**
- All: Thanks be to God.**
- L: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**P: And also with you.**

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Please greet one another with signs of peace)

### **\*GLORIA**

***Gloria!***

***Refrain: Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!***

***Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!***

***Open now our lips, and our mouths shall give praise. Refrain***

***O Lord, rush to help, to deliver your world. Refrain***

***Maker, spirit, friend, you are great mystery! Refrain***

## Hearing the Word

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 6:1-10

PSALM 30 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)

***R Sing praise to God who has shaped and sustains all creation!***

**L:** I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

**P:** **O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**

**L:** O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

**P:** **Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.**

**L:** For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.

**P:** **Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. R**

**L:** As for me, I said in my prosperity, 'I shall never be moved.'

**P:** **By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.**

**L:** To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication: 'What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

**P:** **Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!'**

**L:** You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

**P:** **O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever. R**

## Proclaiming the Word

### GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 10:1-10

### SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

### \*HYMN

*You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*

Black #173

### \*STATEMENT OF FAITH – United Church of Christ

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER**

**Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer.**

**...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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **GATHERING OUR GIFTS**

***This Is My Song***

**David Reilly**

## **\*OFFERTORY**

***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing***

***Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;***

***Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.***

***Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.***

***Praise his name, I'm fixed upon it, name of God's redeeming love.***

## **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**O Lord, may our lives reflect the praises that we sing. We have received grace upon grace, so may we live in grace with one another. We have received forgiveness, so may we forgive. We have received gifts far beyond our need, so may we give. Bless these gifts given this day and always. Amen.**

## Celebrating the Meal

All Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. The bread is gluten-free. The cup is alcohol-free.  
Those choosing not to commune may receive a blessing from the servers.

### *The Invitation to the Meal*

- L: Come people of God, let us sing!  
P: **Let us sing for we are God's people and God has done wonderful things.**  
L: Let us come into God's presence with joy and thanksgiving.  
P: **Let us come into God's presence and let God feed us on the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing. Come Holy Spirit, come!**

### *The Great Thanksgiving*

- L: The Lord be with you.  
P: **And also with you.**  
L: Lift up your hearts.  
P: **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
L: It is right and good always to give thanks...

### *The Words of Institution*

- L: We praise your name as we remember the mystery of faith...  
All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### *Prayer of Consecration*

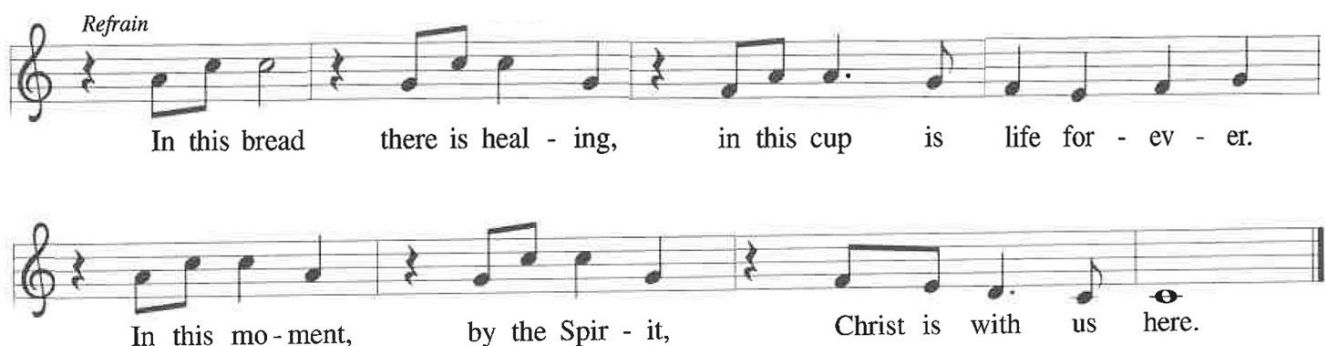
### *Distribution of the Elements*

*Hymns during the distribution of the elements:*

### **Here Is Bread**

*Congregation joins on refrain*

*Refrain*



The musical notation is written on two staves in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.

In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

**Let Us Break Bread Together**

***Let us break bread together on our knees;***

***Let us break bread together on our knees;***

**Refrain: *When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.***

***Let us drink wine together on our knees;***

***Let us drink wine together on our knees; Refrain***

***Let us praise God together on our knees;***

***Let us praise God together on our knees; Refrain***

**Seed Scattered and Sown**

***Congregation joins on refrain***

Seed, scat-tered and sown, wheat, gath-ered and grown, bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the

7  
Liv-ing Bread of God. Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands, one cup that is

14  
shared by all; the Liv-ing Cup, the Liv-ing Bread of God.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

**All: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Sending**

**\*HYMN**

***Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing***

**Blue #748**

**\*BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

Reprinted music used by permission under the following licenses:  
OneLicense.net A-703731; CCLI License 2892021



## SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Chris Myers  
Celebrant: Chris Myers  
Cantor: David Reilly  
Liturgist: Jean Smith  
Deacons: Laura Anderson, Jena Most,  
Marshall Skule, Becky Pajac  
Organist: Marsha Pearson  
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman  
Welcomers: Diane Crist, Marg Downing  
Trustee: Steve Koecher  
Coffee  
Fellowship: Kristin Andes & Tom Magraw  
Counters: Trish Graves, Vicki Sippel  
*Altar table flowers are given in celebration of  
Tom and Jean Smith's 49th wedding anniversary.*

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Christopher Myers  
Education Pastor: Stacy Johnson Myers  
Youth Minister: Alex Plum  
Music Coordinator &  
Bell Director: Jamie Mills  
Choir Director: Sarah Plum  
Organists: Terry Mithun,  
Marsha Pearson  
Building Manager: Timothy Bylander  
Church Moderator: Marie Roe  
Office Administrator: Missy Luedtke  
Nursery Attendant: Kahla Fuller  
Custodian: Farnum Fuller

## Treasurer's Report

	<u>June 29, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,713	\$ 281,223
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 276,198

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.



### Offering QR Code

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click the tab 'Give Online'

Join us for a **FREE** concert  
*on the lawn*  
at 110 N. 3rd St. River Falls


**Thur. July 10th**  
**from 6-8 pm**

featuring  
**Slapdash**  
**Bluegrass Band**  
**& Rollin' River**  
**Mobile Hospitality**  
Food Truck

First Congregational UCC  
[firstchurchrf.org](http://firstchurchrf.org) | 715-425-2052



Presented by  
the UCC WISE  
Team



Experience the calming, soothing effect of  
live therapeutic music!

*First Congregational United Church of Christ  
invites you to a free concert by  
Certified Therapeutic Musician Kristin Andes and her harp.*

Join us Monday evening, July 21, 2025  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Be the Light!**  
**VBS**

July 28-31st, 2025  
9:00 - 11:30 AM  
First Congregational UCC  
Age 3 - Completed Grade 5

To register visit  
[www.firstchurchrf.org](http://www.firstchurchrf.org)  
**All Are Welcome!**  
**No Charge!**





Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

**Those who are ill or recovering:**

Barbara de Souza, Jeff Auchampach (nephew of Yvonne Benson), Janice Anderson (grandmother of Sarah Plum), Judy Schierts (sister of JoAnn Lentz), Glen Corliss (brother of Raelle Jorae), Nigel (brother-in-law of Marshall Skule), Tom Hall (brother of Rollie Hall)

**Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:**

- For those gearing up for our River Falls Days Bluegrass Concert on the church front lawn on Thursday, July 10th from 6-8pm, may we all rest, relax and enjoy music together
- For General Synod of the United Church of Christ which meets in Kansas City July 11-15, may Christ be present
- For those participating in the Tuesday/Wednesday morning Summer Youth Bible Study with Alex, may it be a time of connection
- For those cooking and serving the meal at the Simpson Homeless Shelter in Minneapolis on Wednesday, July 16th, may all be blessed by these efforts
- For those gearing up for the Kids Youth Musical on August 18-21 and VBS on July 28-31, may it be a time of faith filled fun for all
- For those who gave blood at our recent drive in the Fellowship Hall and who will give blood at the next one on July 23, God bless you for giving this precious gift
- For Louise Schmahl (sister of Becky Pajac) as she awaits a B+ kidney donor

**Prayers for our World:**

- For firefighters, especially those killed in Idaho, may their families be strengthened
- For Father Jerry who retired from active ministry on June 30th after 45 years of ministry, may he be given the gift of rest
- We pray for our nation as we approach the July 4th holiday, that we may appreciate our freedom and use it wisely in the service of all our people
- For vulnerable people across the country and around the world affected by cuts in government programs
- For the ways the Spirit of God is at work in our world today moving us to be people of grace, compassion and joy
- For the hope of peace in Iran, Gaza, Palestine, Israel and Ukraine, may God's Spirit be present and may the innocent be protected
- For all of us as we work to better care for the gift of God's good creation and reduce the effects of climate change

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For Jonah and Mya Jensen (son of Michelle and Neal Jensen) who were married on June 14th, may they grow in love
- For Natasha and Peter Rayne as they travel July 3rd to adopt their orphaned nephew Jemuel from Suriname after 3 years of paperwork and prayer, may your newly adopted son grow in grace and love in his new home
- For the gift of summer and all that accompanies this special time of year
- For all who have been baking for and serving at our many recent funerals, God bless you all!
- For our Garden Geeks who weed and water at church each week and for Melissa Wilson who weeded and cleaned the church van, God bless you all!

**For those grieving the loss of loved ones:**

- For the family of Chuck White who died recently at the age of 96 and whose Memorial Service will be July 22nd at 11am here at church, may his family including wife Ruth Anne, be comforted
- For the family of Crissy Savitt, daughter of Brad Williams, who died recently and whose memorial service will be July 9 in New Jersey, may her family be comforted
- For the family of Dorothy Hage, mother of Debbie Parsons, who died recently, may her family be comforted
- For those who mourn, especially the families of Marc Otto, Glenn Kees, Jan Hansen, Brian Healy, may they be strengthened at this difficult time

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

## **Announcements**

*No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!*

### **Loving God**

**New to Church:** Are you a first-time visitor? Please stop at the welcome table in the gathering area to receive a special welcome gift from us!

**Summer Nursery Help Needed:** During the summer months, our church nursery is staffed by volunteers. Please sign up to help in the church nursery. Summer worship time moves to 9:30 am and the nursery is open from 9:15 to 10:45 am. Please contact the church office for more information.

### **Loving Neighbor**

**Simpson Picnic Meal:** Each year our church serves a picnic style meal at the Simpson Shelter in Minneapolis. This year the date is **Wed, July 16**. We cook the meal in our church kitchen then serve it in Minneapolis. Please use the sign-up sheet to help with this needed mission opportunity. Church interns receive intern credit for this mission.

**VBS Cookie Bakers Needed:** Homemade cookies are a special part of the VBS snack, so we need volunteers to make some. Each volunteer is asked to bring four dozen cookies. A sign-up list is available on the table.

**VBS Volunteers:** We need adult and teen workers. VBS will be July 28–31, 9:00–11:30 am. To volunteer, please sign up at church or online.

**VBS Painting Work Night:** Please come to help paint the VBS backdrops on **Tuesday, July 15, starting at 6:00**. The only talent necessary is the ability to paint within the lines. Please help!

**VBS Volunteer Meeting:** The VBS volunteer meeting will be **Thursday, July 24, 6:30–7:30 pm**. This is the most important chance to prepare for the week. Please plan to attend.

**Simpson Shelter Supply Needs:** Men's T-Shirts Sizes M, XL, XXL, XXXL, Bras - all sizes, Personal Size Body Lotion, Personal Size Baby Oil, Nail Care Kits, Men's and Women's Shower Shoes, Textured/Natural Hair Products, Personal Size Hair Conditioner, Personal Size Toothpaste, Umbrellas, Good buys on out-of-season clothing. All items **MUST BE NEW**. There is a box for donations.

**Among Friends** is a community-based social respite program serving adults who have memory loss who reside in Pierce & St. Croix Counties. For more information, call (715) 293-2561. Check out the website: [amongfriendsrf.com](http://amongfriendsrf.com) & Facebook. It is held at church **Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 3pm**.

### **Loving Self**

**Therapeutic Music Concert:** Experience the calming, soothing effect of live therapeutic music! You are invited to a free concert by Certified Therapeutic Musician Kristin Andes and her harp on **Mon, July 21, 6:30-7:30 pm**.

**Summer Choir** is low stress and low commitment. We simply meet an hour before the service and sing a familiar song. The next dates will be **July 27 and August 10**. Please consider joining us!

**Merry Widows:** They will meet on **Wed, July 16 at 1:00 pm at The Sycamore**. All widows are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation! See JoAnn Lentz for more information.

**Peaches:** It's time to place your order for the delicious Washington State Peaches! 1 single-layer box is \$26.00; 2 or more single-layer boxes are \$25.00 each. **Orders must be placed by July 28 for pick up the first week of August.** There are 3 ways to order: 1. Email: [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org); 2. Sign up at church or online; 3. Call: 715-425-2052 – Mon-Thurs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm or leave a message with name, phone, and number of boxes. This is an annual fundraiser for our youth. Thank you for your support!

**Men's Group:** Our church men's group meets **every other Tuesday from 9:00-10:00 am** in the Youth Room. All men are welcome to join us for coffee, donuts & lively conversation. Our next gatherings are **July 15 & 29.**

**Women's Group:** Interested in fellowship & community with other women? You are invited to join the group at noon every 2nd & 4th Tuesday. Please bring a lunch. The next meetings will be **July 8 & 22.**

**Church Yoga:** The church yoga group meets on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** in the church Fellowship Hall from **9:00-10:00 am** and via Zoom. Please contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.

**Let's Knit/Craft Together:** Join us on **Thursdays at 10:00 am. We meet at Sycamore on the first Thursday of each month & the Fellowship Hall the other Thursdays.** We have a great time sharing our projects & enjoying each other's company. For more info, contact Marie Roe at 715-781-2103 or [firstroe@gmail.com](mailto:firstroe@gmail.com)

**WISE Team:** NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family Support Group meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays 6:30pm at 113 East Elm Street (Mei Mei's) & Peer Support Group meets the same evenings at Luther Memorial Church at 6:30pm. The WISE Team meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. For more info, call Marg Downing 715-307-5905.

### ***Community Life***

**Softball News:** We had an awesome night to play softball with nice weather and few bugs. The final result was good too, with a winning run at the bottom of the 7th after being tied for two innings. Our present record is 2 wins, 1 loss and two rain outs. Looking ahead here are our next 3 games:

July 7 at 7:15 pm vs St Bridget at Hoffman Park field #2

July 14 at 6:00 pm vs Luther Memorial at Hoffman Park field #2

July 21 at 7:15 pm vs Spirit of Grace at Hoffman Park Field #2

Thanks to our faithful fans who cheer us on. Come join in the fun whether playing or cheering the team on. If you have questions contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945, [debhoffman234b@gmail.com](mailto:debhoffman234b@gmail.com).

### ***Youth Events***

**Youth Day Trip to the Cities:** Alex is working on dates for the Day Trip to the Cities! The days and times will determine where we might visit. Please fill out this short questionnaire on the website to help Alex plan around the group's availability.

**Summer Dates for Kids:** Dates for the 2025 children's summer programs are:

VBS: *Be The Light:* July 28-31, 2025

Children's Musical: *Malice in the Palace:* August 18-21, 2025

VBS is for children age 3 to completed grade 5. We will need adult and teen volunteers for VBS.

The musical is for children in kindergarten through completed grade 6. Emma Cruciani will be the director.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Galatians 6:1-10**

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 10:1-10**

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."