

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit and with the help of God,  
we open our doors and hearts to all,  
in service and love as modeled by Jesus Christ.*



*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day*  
*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*  
*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Seven-Thirty and Ten O'clock in the Morning*

## ***The Worship of God***

### The Prologue

Today, we read Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount, except in this version it is called a sermon on the plain. Supposedly, it was preached on a level place. Well, which is it? Scholars believe these sermons, reflecting the wisdom literature of the ancient world, were not original with Jesus. In fact, he probably never said them! Luke's account of these sage words are much more stark than the dressed-up embellishment offered by Matthew's kinder and gentler, more fully developed narrative. Luke gets right to the point in his interpretation! Rather than "Blessed are the poor in spirit," Luke prefers "Blessed are the poor!" There is no nuance in this writer's musings, no confusion, no mixed signals. Luke then follows suit, using this literal approach for the rest of his litany of blessings. With either interpretation, we are gifted with a beatitude attitude indicating the way we should live. As we consider one of our missionary partners today, these words, as is often the case with the Lectionary, are indeed timely!

### Gathering Music

#### The Greeting

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

**And also with you.**

### The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Music for Piano

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Collect

God of great blessing, we have gathered in this sacred setting to worship the One whose beatitudes are befitting each one of us, rejoicing at streams of your living water; we long for your tender touch, that we might grow the deep roots that absorb your truth; grow us as a beloved faith community that we might be the supportive community of grace that nurtures every branch of our common being; in our corporate time together, we seek your presence among us, longing for the Holy in our midst; all this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

\*The Opening Hymn, No. 6

MIT FREUDEN ZART

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

\*The Gathering

Blessed are those who trust in God, the One in whom we take delight! We long to hear the word of God, meditating on its gracious law!

**Blessed are those who seek the realm of God, all who hunger to find meaning in their lives, bearing fruit in everything we say and do!**

Blessed are the faithful who serve God, everyone who offers themselves to our creator in worship, joyfully risking everything in faithfulness and hope!

**In this sacred setting, we long to find the new life, blessed with healing and empowerment for all life's journeys!**

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

JEREMIAH 17:5-10

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon

*Bless Your Heart!*

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

The Service of Holy Communion

Seven-Thirty O'clock in the Morning

The Concerns of the Church

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's 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.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

\*The Closing Hymn, No. 73

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

WELLESLEY

\*The Benediction

The Music for Piano

\*You are invited to stand as you are able.

## **Concerns of the Church**

Lent is coming! As always, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. This year it will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are offering two opportunities for worship this year, one service at noon and a later service at Six O'clock in the Evening. Each week during Lent we will offer a soup supper beginning at Six O'clock in the Evening, followed by a brief worship service, hopefully with some discussion. Those dates are: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and April 6<sup>th</sup>. Maundy Thursday worship, April 14<sup>th</sup>, will begin at Six O'clock in Fellowship Hall with an Agape Meal, followed by Holy Communion, Footwashing, and the Service of Tenebrae in the Sanctuary. On Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Sanctuary will be open for meditation, prayer, and reflection from Noon until Three O'clock in the Afternoon. Finally, we will have a unity service at Nine O'clock in the Morning on Easter Day. We hope to see you there!!! P.S. We need volunteers to prepare soup for the suppers. Please let Debbie in the Church Office know.

In light of the spike in the omicron variations of COVID, the First Congregational United Church of Christ is now requiring parishioners to wear a mask during worship no matter their vaccination status. For those who are uncomfortable attending worship in person we continue to offer an online version of the 7:30 service, made available as quickly as it can be edited and produced. In addition, we remind you that if you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or you are feeling ill, please stay home! We are all in this together!

Online Giving is now available on the church website. With online giving, you can set up recurring or one-time gifts to be made automatically from your checking account or by debit or credit card. Online giving allows you to make gifts more conveniently and easier, especially when not physically attending worship. If you have questions on how to get started with online giving feel free to reach out to Alex at [alex@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:alex@eagleriverucc.org) or give him a call at 715-802-8501, Option 8.

Prayer requests can be sent to the prayer group through Tobi Johannsen (920-450-1402). We ask that any prayer requests mentioned from the pulpit have the permission of the one desiring prayer. Thank you for your understanding.

Scripture readers, ushers, and camcorder operators are always needed as well as readers for the Concerns of the Church. You may sign up by visiting our website; or you may also contact Joy Turpin at: joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com or (715) 479-6560.

We are asking that if you belong to a local organization (i.e., Lions Club, Rotary, Easy Eagles, etc.) that you would like to invite Tim to come to your meeting and introduce him to the community.

If you have any digital materials or any church records from previous years, please bring them to the church office.

There have been inquiries regarding the collection of greeting cards for recycling. Some card donating tips:

- All types of greeting cards, including Christmas are used.
- Only the card front can be used (please check to be sure the back side is clear of any writing, etc.)
- They cannot accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting cards.
- 5" x 7" size or smaller is preferred.
- St. Jude's Ranch for Children has a Recycled Card Program where the children take used cards and make new ones.
- The rewards are great. You get satisfaction in knowing the cards are used to help sick children, plus it helps keep your storage area uncluttered. The sick children get satisfaction in taking an old, used card and making it into a brand new one; plus they receive money for their work and they are taught entrepreneurship skills.
- Women's Fellowship pays the postage for the cards sent from our church.
- At this time, they are in particular need of Birthday and Thank You cards.

**Church Staff:**

**Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor**

**Debbie Brown, Church Administrator**

**Jonathan Alexander (Alex) Fluegel, Information & Electronic Technology Director**

**Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education**

**Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music**

**Linda Brainard, Pianist**

**Norma Yaeger, Pianist**

**Christine Clough, Cleaning Services**

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

105 North First Street ~ PO Box 1385

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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