

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.*



*Second Sunday after Pentecost
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Honoring and Celebrating Juneteenth*

*The Lord's Day
Second Sunday after Pentecost
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Honoring and Celebrating Juneteenth
Half Past Seven in the Morning*

The Worship of God

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by God's holiness; the nourishment of the mind with God's truth; the purifying of the imagination by God's beauty; the opening of the heart to God's love; the surrender of the will to God's purpose—all of this gathered up in adoration.

~William Temple

The Prologue

On this first Sunday in this second set of Ordinary Time Sundays, we are gifted with a smorgasbord of rich narratives, each one offering a veritable homiletical goldmine! On this day, we do not get the shaft! From Elijah's transcendent experience of the Holy in the sound of sheer silence, to Luke's colorfully descriptive play-by-play of the herd of swine—soeey pig—in the country of the Gerasene's, to Paul's declaration that there are no distinctions of persons in the eyes of God, there is more here than we could ever digest in one service. As we honor and celebrate Juneteenth, Paul's words absolutely resonate completely.

The Gathering Music

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

And also with you.

The Music for Piano

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Gathering

We gather, not as rigid keepers of the law, never captive to the law's restraints, but we come together as responsible people of faith, sons and daughters of God!

Baptized as heirs into Christ, striving to embody the character of Jesus, we come to worship as the spiritual offspring of him who is our guide and mentor!

According to God's promises, in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female!

All are welcome in the household of God, for we are all one in Christ Jesus!

Let us worship God!

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, God of hosts, we have gathered to worship the One who comes in myriad ways, but ever so softly and subtly in the sound of sheer silence; we aspire to equality and unity through faith in Christ Jesus, seeking to be people of covenant, bound to you and one another by promises made and faithfully kept; when we are discouraged, thinking that we alone are true to our vows, remind us of the larger beloved faith community, committed people to whom we are linked in trust and caring; amid wind and earthquake and fire, sustain us, that when they are past we may hear your still small voice, speaking to us now in the silence of this hour; all this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen!

*The Opening Hymn

All Are Welcome

TWO OAKS

*Let us build a house where love can dwell, and all can safely live!
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace.
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions!
All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place!*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak and words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and a symbol of God's grace.*

Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus!

All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place!

*Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat,
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus is revealed in time and space.*

As we share in Christ the feast that frees us!

All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place!

*Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve, and teach, and live the word they've known.*

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face!

Let us bring an end to fear and danger!

All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place!

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,*

Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter!

All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place!

***The Litany of Praise**

God is ready for us to seek what is eternal! God wants us to find the truth beyond ourselves!

Our spirits long for God as deer long for water! We cry out for an evidentiary sign, an empirical manifestation of the presence of the Holy!

God seldom comes as earthquake, wind, or fire! The Holy is quietly echoed in still moments, heard in the sound of sheer silence!

We come in quiet expectation to this sacred setting, approaching the altar of God, hungering to be fed!

All are welcome here as brothers and sisters in Christ! Here is a place to find healing and promise!

Our hope is in God, who gives us life abundant, a defining identity of love and grace. Our help is from God, who is in covenant with us! Praise the Lord!

*Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Comforter!
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end! Amen! Amen!*

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

I KINGS 19:1-15a

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came,

and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.

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

Thanks be to God!

The Witness from the Epistles

GALATIANS 3:23-29

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

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

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Good As Gold!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

The Discipline of Silence

The Concerns of the Church

The Pastoral Prayer

The 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 Receiving of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Christ all creatures here below!
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore!
Praise triune God whom we adore!*

*The Presentation of Our Gifts

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Closing Hymn, No. 687 *In Christ There Is No East or West*

ST. PETER

*The Benediction

*The Fellowship Song *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

WORLD PEACE

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
With every step I take, let this be my joyous creed.
To take each moment and
live each moment in peace, eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

The Music for Piano

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

The color for the Season after Pentecost is Green, symbolizing the growth and development of the Church. Various symbols of the Trinity, such as the Trefoil and Triangle designs used in our sanctuary, remind us of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the Triune nature of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Parent, Child, Advocate and Comforter; Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Ordinary Time refers to that part of the Church Year that does not fall within one of the major seasons and does not observe any specific aspect of the Mystery of Christ. It consists of thirty-four Sundays in the liturgical year counted backwards from the Reign of Christ and emphasizes personal faith development and nurture, and the growth and enhancement of the Church and the churches.

Worship Notes:

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Concerns of the Church

In accordance with CDC guidelines, wearing of masks is now optional. We will continue to sign in for worship. If we have cases of COVID within our congregation brought to our attention, we will notify everyone as soon as possible.

Prayer Concerns: As we worship today our thoughts are with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and for the families and friends of those who were murdered as a result of gun violence.

Scripture readers and ushers 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.

Just a friendly reminder! The last Sunday of the month is always *A Unity Service*, meeting at *Nine o'clock in the Morning*. Please put these services on your calendar.

Please sign the “Who’s Who in the Pew” pads noting the service you attended.

Our *Unity Service* will be held outdoors here at the church on Sunday, June 26th at *Nine O'clock in the Morning*. Be sure and bring a chair to worship that day.

The Church Council is receiving nominations for Council membership including suggestions for president of the congregation. Please contact Mark Johannsen with your nominations. You can contact Mark by email at markjohannsen@gmail.com or by phone at 920-475-7576. Please note, Mark will be available by phone starting June 23rd.

We currently have an overabundance of books and invite you to peruse those in the parlor and take whatever you please. Please!

Please remember to bring your change to contribute to the Melody of Compassion fund, the proceeds of which go toward helping those in our community who are in need.

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Vice President, Mark Johannsen
Trisha Moore
Cathy Palmer
Luke Aschbrenner
Deb Stolze
Steve Burrill
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Safety and Security, Carlton Schroeder
Scholarship, Ursula Charaf

CHURCH STAFF

Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor
Debbie Brown, Church Administrator
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



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June 19, 2022