

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 the Epiphany
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day
Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Nine o'clock 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

As we revisit the Gospel of John today, we once again encounter the deeply theological overtones of the Gospel writer. Jesus had just emerged from the baptismal waters and John the Baptizer proclaims that the young man from Nazareth was the incarnational “Lamb of God,” this Johannine title a foreshadowing of what the early church would interpret as the ultimate sacrifice, reflecting on the meaning of Jesus’ crucifixion. Meanwhile, on the next day, Jesus began calling his disciples, first calling two curious disciples of John, calling both of them to follow him. They inquire as to where he was staying! “Come and see” he tells them! It is a good metaphor for all of us as we seek to know him and make him known! Cliché intended!

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 Contemplation

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Gathering

Come to worship the Holy One, rejoicing in the One who has chosen all people as light to the nations!

From far and near we have gathered to hear glad news in the midst of the great congregation!

Listen! Pay close attention! Know that you are the redeemed people of God, the One who has called you to bring salvation to the very ends of the earth!

Gathered together as one great assembly, we sing songs of praise to the Holy, singing to the One whose faithfulness calls forth our deepest devotion!

Let us worship God!

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

Redeeming and liberating God, we have come, bowing before the Holy One, to sing a new song of praise to God, the One who is faithful to all nations, whose light shines forth the salvation of God to all people; we rejoice that we have been chosen in love, that the glad news of God's deliverance has been proclaimed in our midst; withhold not your mercies, O Lord, and let your steadfast love and faithfulness keep us safe forever; 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. 66 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO

*The Litany of Praise

Sing a new song to our incomparable God, the One hearing our cries, lifting us out of the muck of life that diminishes our humanity, threatening to kill our spirits!

Our hope is in the One who sets our feet on solid ground, putting a new song in our mouths, the One who amazes all humanity, making us very happy!

We place our trust in the righteous One, the deeds of the Holy too numerous to count, permeating the assembly of the faithful!

We delight in the Holy One who has done wondrous things in our midst, whose law is imbedded deep within us, revealing a plan for each one of us!

Tell the good news of God's righteous goodness and grace, declaring the faithfulness, the loyal love and trustworthiness of the Holy One in the great congregation!

The salvation of God extends to everyone, protecting all people, a compassionate and merciful God keeping all humanity safe in God's care! 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 Call to Confession¹

The church of which we are a part has a long record of faithful worship and service. Yet, it is easy to settle into routines and rituals that lose the urgency of the gospel. We become complacent and our focus narrows to our own immediate concerns. Let us return to God for cleansing and restoration! In the silence and stillness of these moments, let us confess before the Holy.

The Silent Confession

The Corporate Confession²

Let us pray to the Lord,

The Holy One welcomes us back to renew our commitment! We confess that pride can lead us to embrace false gods! We are prone to spend more time with our hobbies than with your cause. We are tempted to pay more attention to our toys than to your truth. When we yield to those temptations your law is no longer in our hearts. We often neglect the spiritual gifts entrusted to us. It perils us when we forget that we have been named and baptized and commissioned for service. God who hears our prayers, forgive us and bring us back to yourself!

The Assurance of Pardon³

Beloved faith community, hear the good news! God's saving help is available to us. God's mercy is sure! We can leave our idols and reorder our priorities. We are empowered by God's steadfast love and faithfulness to become all we are meant to be. Sing a new song of praise to our God!

Thanks be to God!

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

ISAIAH 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands! Pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born! While I was in my mother's womb God named me! God made my mouth like a sharp sword! In the shadow of God's hand, the Holy One hid me! God made me a polished arrow! In God's quiver the Holy One hid me away! And God said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified!" But I said, "I have labored in vain! I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity! Yet

surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with my God!” And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be the servant of God, to bring Jacob back to the Holy One, and that Israel might be gathered to God, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength! The Holy One says, “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel! I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth!” Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up! Princes and rulers shall prostrate themselves because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you!”

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

Thanks be to God!

The Response, PSALM 40:1-11 *I Waited Patiently for God*

AZMON

*I waited patiently for God, for God to hear my prayer!
And God bent down to where I sank and listened to me there!*

*God raised me from a miry pit, from mud and sinking sand,
And set my feet upon a rock where I can firmly stand!*

*And on my lips a song was put, a new song to the Lord!
So many marvel open eyed and put their trust in God!*

*Great wonders you have done, O Lord, all purposed for our good!
Unable everyone to name, I bow in gratitude!*

The Witness from the Gospels

JOHN 1:29-42

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me!’ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel!” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him! I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit!’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One!” The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see!” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed)! He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John! You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter)!

The Gospel for today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Come and See!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

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 Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Closing Hymn, No. 575 *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

BEACH SPRING

*The Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

*The Procession of the Light

*The Benediction and Blessing

To our guests! At your choosing, we invite you to join us in a long-standing tradition at First Congregational United Church of Christ as we form a circle as one, joining hands and singing together our Fellowship Song.

*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 Reflection

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

Lector: Chuck Kemp

Ushers: Susan Krivichi and Carlton Schroeder

The color for the Sundays after the Epiphany is Green, symbolizing the growth and development of the Church. Various symbols of the Trinity, such as the Trefoil and Triangle designs, 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 and emphasizes personal faith development and nurture, and the growth and enhancement of the Church and the churches. Ordinary Time begins with Baptism of the Lord and encompasses the Sundays after Epiphany including Transfiguration and the Sundays after Pentecost including Reign of Christ. An interesting bit of liturgical trivia is that Baptism of the Lord is counted but is not named as the first Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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***The flowers adorning the Chancel for today's worship are given by
Don and Paula Hendrickson in honor of Marlys Lee's birthday.***

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 Service

CHURCH COUNCIL

President, Donna Adams

Vice President, Mark Johannsen

Trisha Moore

Cathy Palmer

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Deb Stolze

Steve Burrill

Clerk, Norma Yaeger

Pastor Parish Relations, Tobi Johannsen

Women's Fellowship, Sharon Breit

Sanctuary Arts Group, Patti Roberts

Facilities, Donna Adams

Finance, Paula Hendrickson

Gifts and Endowments, Bill Marshall

Safety and Security, Carlton Schroeder

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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