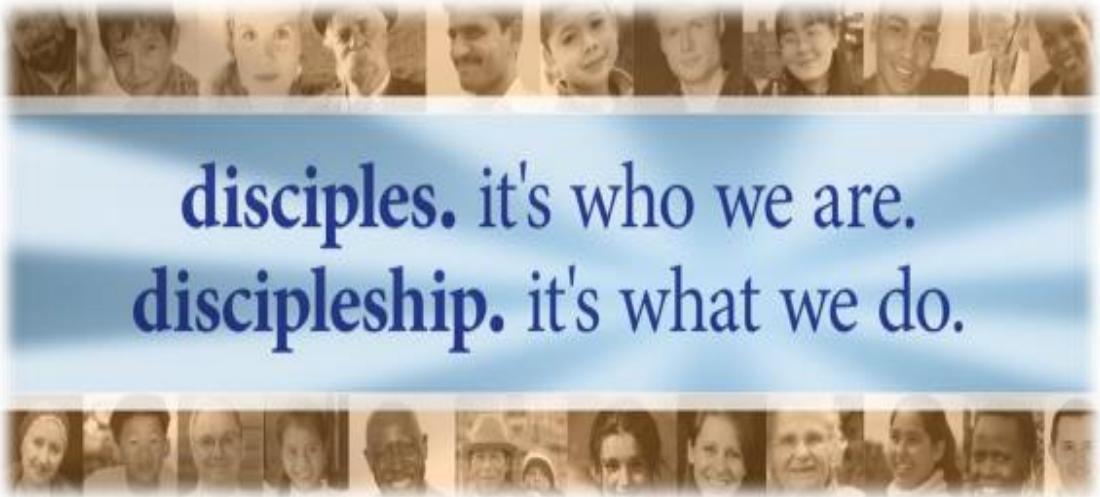


First Congregational United Church of Christ

*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.*



*Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day
Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Third 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

Today's Witness from the Gospel provides an interesting transition as Advent and Christmas images fade further into the rearview mirror of our collective consciousness. Themes of Epiphany and its Sundays after clearly emerge, flooding our liturgical and theological landscape. The mission of John the Baptizer is now complete, including his arrest, a beheading on the horizon. Jesus now takes the mantle prepared for him by this harbinger of the messianic rabbi, John, a great preacher cast in the image of the throwback prophets of old. It is significant that the first disciples who chose to follow Jesus were loyal disciples of John. We are witnessing a seamless transition of power! Today, we read about the first disciples directly called by Jesus as he begins his three-year odyssey, a ministry and mission unlike any before or after it. Today, it is all about discipleship and the call thereof!

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

Gather as people who once walked in darkness but have truly seen a great light!

We who once lived in a land of deep darkness, on us has light shined!

Seek the face of the Holy in this place, coming together to exult in God's beauty within this glorious temple, basking in the glow of God's gracious goodness!

The Lord is our light! Let us sing and make melody before the God of our salvation!

Let us worship God!

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of illumination, we who have indeed walked in darkness have seen a great light, for a holy light has shined upon us with the salvation that only comes from you; we seek your face this day, illuminating God, that our fears might be vanquished and that we might be drawn into your holy presence; in your shelter, God of light and wisdom, we have gathered in this sacred setting to sing our songs before the One whose beauty we behold in the midst of this glorious place; 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. 2 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

*The Litany of Praise

The Holy One is our light and our salvation, the stronghold of our lives, protected in the safety of God's shadow! Who then shall we fear?

We are set high on a rock, safe from all adversaries, sheltered in a divinely eternal dwelling place, able to endure every troubling day!

With shouts of joy, sing and make melody to our light and life, praising the One who hears our voice when we cry out to God, seeking an answer from the Holy!

The face of the Holy One is never hidden from us! God hears our cries and is gracious to answer, responding when we inquire in God's temple!

One thing we have asked of the Lord, one thing we seek, and that is to live in the house of God for all our days, beholding the beauty of the Holy!

All praise to the One who never turns away from us in anger, never forsaking us! Praise be to the God of our salvation! 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

Jesus came to Galilee with the message of John the Baptist! Repent, for God's Realm has come near! The Baptizer's invitation went out to common everyday folks like you and me! As he did with his disciples, Jesus calls us one and all to repentance and discipleship! 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,

Turn our lives around, helping and saving God, for we want to follow you. Help us to identify in ourselves those things that need to change if we are to fully experience your joy. Too long we have been hiding in the shadows, reluctant to express our faith. Too long we have shunned the light, afraid of what might be exposed. Too long we have avoided people with whom we have quarreled, refusing to build bridges spanning our beautiful differences. Save us from ourselves that we may enjoy your realm!

The Assurance of Pardon³

Hear the good news! Light has come! Salvation is poured out on those who accept it! God is gracious and reaches out to welcome us! We are free to accept the invitation to follow Jesus! There is good news of forgiveness and healing to be shared!

Thanks be to God!

The Witness from the Epistles

I CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

Now, I appeal to you brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose! For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters! What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul!" Or, "I belong to Apollos!" Or, "I belong to Cephas!" Or, "I belong to Christ!" Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name! I did baptize also the household of Stephanas! Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else! For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel! And not with eloquent wisdom! So, that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power! For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God!

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

Thanks be to God!

The Response, PSALM 27: 1, 4-9

HOLY MANNA

*God, my light, and my salvation, in whose strength my hope is laid!
Confident in my salvation, I shall never be afraid!
Evil hosts may rise against me, wars distress, and flesh decays!
Yet the cruelest death imagined but begins my song of praise!
Shelter me within the haven of your house all time to come!
On the rock of your protection, let me safely find a home!
Lift me high above the legions who would rail against your word!
O'er the tumult of division make my cry for peace be heard!
When my trust is disappointed, faith confronted with disdain!
Friend and foe defeat my purpose, even then will God sustain!
Had I not with eyes believing seen the goodness of God's face,
Never could I taste your pleasure, nor await your saving grace!*

The Witness from the Gospels

MATTHEW 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee! He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled! "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned!" From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the realm of heaven has come near!" As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea! For they were fishers! And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people!" Immediately they left their nets and followed him! As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets! And he called them! Immediately, they left the boat and their father and followed him! Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the realm of God and curing every disease and every sickness among the people!

The Gospel for today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Foolish Belonging!

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. 453 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

*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: Marilyn Preisler

Ushers: Jim Sanborn 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
Donna Adams in loving memory of Dennis Burgy.***

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 Johanssen
Trisha Moore
Cathy Palmer
Luke Aschbrenner
Deb Stolze
Steve Burrill
Clerk, Norma Yaeger
Pastor Parish Relations, Tobi Johanssen
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
Scholarship, Ursula Charaf



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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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