

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
Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day
Second Sunday after Pentecost
Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ten 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

Be honest now! Have you ever thought the following about someone: "I could never respect someone who did that for a living?" or someone with "that kind of reputation?" You can fill in the blank of what the "that" might be. Here is what is surprising about today's Gospel lesson. Jesus not only did not despise Matthew, someone whose profession was universally hated, he invited him to be his friend, his disciple, his follower. And then, to make things even more scandalous, Jesus went to dinner with him and with others who would be considered to be disreputable. Makes you wonder what Jesus saw in Matthew. Makes you wonder what he sees in us. Perhaps it is what he told us that qualifies us for God's love, which is being God's children!

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

Call on the name of the Lord in the sanctuary, offering praise and thanksgiving before the Holy in this sacred space!

What shall we return unto the Lord, the One whose bounty has filled us with good things?

As servants of God, call upon the One who frees us to faithful love as we zealously follow after the Holy!

We have assembled in the presence of the people, gathering in the very courts of the house of the Lord!

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 47 (*Chalice Praise*) *O Lord, You're Beautiful*

Keith Green

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of gracious love, we have gathered as your children, justified by faith through the mercy, peace, and grace of Christ Jesus; we have come before the Holy to give thanks to the One we love, whose salvation is upon us all; in the presence of your people, we offer ourselves as proclaimers of your good news in the courts of the house of the Lord; 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. 24 *The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

*The Litany of Praise

Call on God as long as you live, always lifting up the cup of salvation!

We love the Lord because the Holy One has inclined an ear to us, hearing our voice and our supplications!

Make your vows before the Lord in the presence of all people!

What shall we return unto the Lord for all of God's bounty unto us?

Offer unto God a sacrifice of thanksgiving! Call on the name of the Lord in the courts of the house of God!

In the courtyards of the Holy One, we honor our promises, always faithful and loving, following in the ways of God! Praise the Lord!

*The Gloria

GREATOREX

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

Meeting God can be a very disturbing experience, for God may require of us changes that we fear. We may hear challenges that push us beyond our comfort zones. In our prayers of confession, we seek to overcome our resistance to God's direction and open ourselves to greater possibilities! 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,

Birthing God, we often fail to recognize that you are always with us. We are prone to deny your love by our failure to love. We deny your law when we fail to live by it. We even laugh hysterically at the promises you make us a people in covenant relationship with you, beloved faith community. We appear more burdened than joyful in the midst of the wondrous gift of this blessed life you have given us. We seldom pause to give thanks. The compassion of Christ finds little echo in us, becoming nothing more than a cacophony of sound, like noisy gongs and clanging cymbals. We need your forgiveness, gracious God, along with a new vision to empower and enable us to be faithful and loving, always following after you!

The Assurance of Pardon³

Beloved faith community, hear the good news. God's favor rests upon us. Sincere confession is met with caring acceptance. God hears the prayers of our hearts and grants us peace the world cannot give. In Christ, we have access to the grace in which we stand. Lift up the cup of salvation and offer sacrifices of thanksgiving. God has loosed our bonds and freed us to share God's glory!

Thanks be to God!

The Witness from the Epistles

ROMANS 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be!" He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully

convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness!” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification!

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

The Sung Response: PSALM 33

KINGSFOLD

*Rejoice, you righteous, in the Lord, in song your voices raise!
Awake the harp and psaltery! Lift up God's name in praise!
For by God's word the heavens were hung! The sea, the land,
And all that fill the firmament were made at God's command!*

*Let ev'ry nation of the earth unite with one accord!
And humbly lay their heartfelt prayers in awe before the Lord!
How happy are God's children, how blest God's chosen heirs!
For surely an inheritance of glory shall be theirs!*

*Behold, God's ever watchful eye sees through our dark despair!
The arms of grace encircle us with strong, yet tender care!
The hope of countless ages, who sets at peace our fears,
God's mercy and compassion shall follow all our years!*

The Witness from the Gospels

MATTHEW 9:9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me!” And he got up and followed him! And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick! Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice!’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners!”

The Gospel for today!
Thanks be to God!

The Sermon
The Music for Meditation
The Concerns of the Church
The Pastoral Prayer

Something from Nothing!

Dale Bishop

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. 67 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE

*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.

*The flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today
are given by Doug and Sharon Breit in honor of their years together.*

Lector: Carol Marshall

Ushers: Mary Lou Congdon and Susan Krivichi

Organist: Linda Ingebritson

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 are frequently used to 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, Comforter, and Holy Companion; our 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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God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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