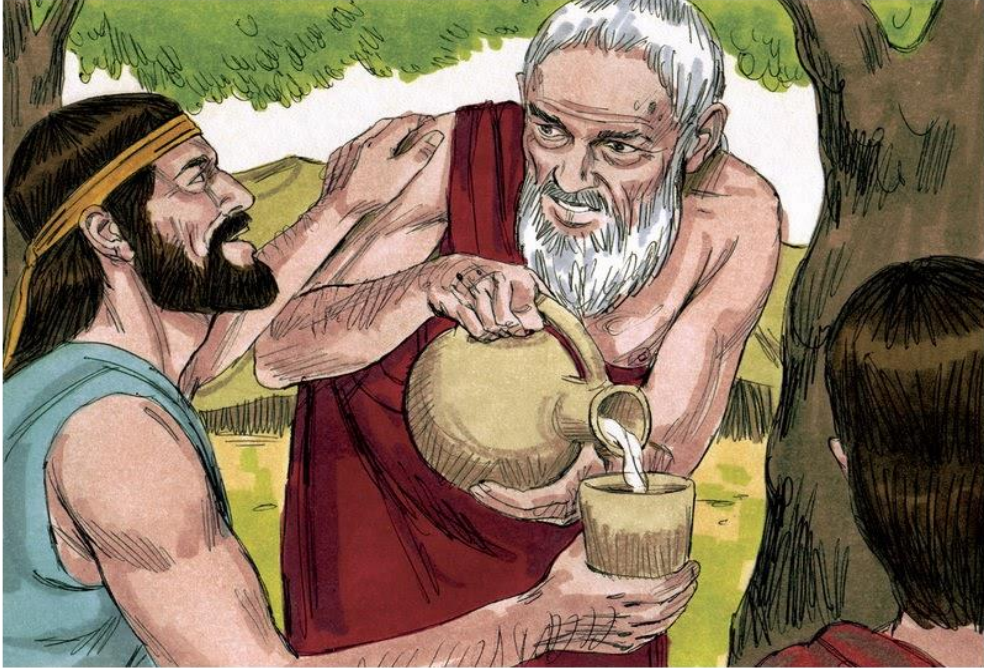


First Congregational United Church of Christ

*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 Pentecost
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Eleventh 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

In today's Witness from the Hebrew Bible in Genesis, along with the Witness from the Gospels in Matthew, the lectionary editors have provided a harmonic convergence of homiletical proportions. In today's readings, two quintessential hospitality texts in the Bible intersect in a most profound way. They remind the reader, that at its core, ancient Bedouin hospitality is at the root, the very heart of the biblical narrative, clearly articulating an expectation for those who take these texts seriously. Perhaps never before have these ancient words been more poignant and profound, any more relevant. As we seek to broaden an ever-widening tent as the First Congregational United Church of Christ, and as our country struggles with issues regarding immigration and refugees, once again, the question must be asked, "WWJD?"—"What would Jesus do?" It may sound cheesy and an over-hyped cliché, the stuff of wristbands, billboards, and bumper stickers, but it is a fitting question none the less.

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 before God with prayers and supplications! Worship the One in whom we place our faith and our trust!

Give ear to us, hospitable God, that we might glorify your name because you are our God!

Call upon the One who gladdens our souls with wondrous things, bringing help and comfort to all!

We bow before the Holy in acts of praise and worship, giving glory to an awesome wonder-working God like none other!

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 60 (*Chalice Praise*) *I Love You, Lord* Laurie Klein

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,
Wonder-working God, we have gathered in this place to offer our prayers and supplications to the One who is our God, the One who alone is God, the One who inclines an ear to us, hearing our cries and answering us when we call; as we gather in all our diversity on this day, may all of us dedicate ourselves anew to the One who has created us, has given us life, and has breathed upon us the holy breath of God; may all our acts of worship this day be precious in your sight; 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. 284 *Gather Us In* Gather Us In

*The Litany of Praise

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer us! Be gracious, hospitable God, to your devoted servants!

For you are our God, good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call out to you!

Give ear, O Lord, to our prayers, listening closely to the cries of your people, to those who call out to you in days of trouble, believing, knowing that you will answer!

There is none like you, welcoming and inclusive God! Nothing compares to your awesome deeds, the great and wondrous things done at your command!

All shall glorify the name of the Lord, an awesome wonderworker among all nations,
the One whose favor is a comfort to all people!

**Show us your goodness, inviting God, a sign of your help and comfort among this
your people! We bow before you because you alone are God, our 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

God's grace has been poured out among us that we might die to self. Yet, we can be a stubborn lot,
persistent in our desire to be disobedient, as if in so doing, we thereby give God more opportunities
to be gracious. Let us bring to God all the brokenness of our lives, our alienation from our creator,
enabling us to become the persons we are created to be, becoming our own best selves! 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,

**Wonderworking God, we are acutely aware that we are poor and needy in
matters of the Spirit. You offer us newness of life, but we tend to be fearful
of its cost. Your gifts place us in debts so vast that we know we can never
repay them. Quite often, we lean into our guilt and shame, believing that we
are spiritually bankrupt, unworthy of your love, unable to earn your
forgiveness. How is it that every time we humbly accept your gift of grace,
we are renewed with a freedom, born anew in your love. Forgiving God, we
want to be dead to what hinders our relationship to you and to one another,
alive to your Holy Spirit. Help us to achieve that lofty goal!**

The Assurance of Pardon³

Beloved faith community, hear the good news. As Christ was raised in glory, we too are lifted up to
walk in newness of life, accepted, forgiven, and made whole. We can never be our old selves
again, for Christ has set us free. Old divisions and misunderstandings are overcome in the steadfast
love of God as we learn to better trust one another in beloved faith community. All who give up
their self-absorbed, self-occupied ways for Christ's sake find abundant life. This is God's gift to
you today!

Thanks be to God!

The Time for the Children

Pat Tucker

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

GENESIS 18:1-15

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant! Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said!” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes!” Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent!” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age! It had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So, Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?” The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh!” For she was afraid! He said, “Yes, you did laugh!”

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

Thanks be to God!

The Sung Response: PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

CANONBURY

*We love the Lord, who heard our voice, and answered our most earnest plea!
When snares of death our life would take, e'en then, our God, we call on Thee!*

*O what can we to good return for all the bounty from your store?
Seen with your grace, our highest prize is naught, what can we give you more?*

*We lift salvation's cup from which you had us drink to seal our vow!
And in the sight of all around, we honor our commitment now!*

*The recompense for what is ours is to exalt your name always!
Our hearts with thanks should ne'er run dry, nor tongue refuse to sing your praise!*

The Witness from the Gospels

MATTHEW 9:35-10:8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the realm of God and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few! Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest!” Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave

them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector, James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The realm of heaven has come near!’ Cure the sick! Raise the dead! Cleanse those with a skin disease! Cast out demons! You received without payment! Give without payment!”

The Gospel for today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Tent Meeting!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Anthem

Have Faith

Walt Harrah; arr. Jeff Lippencott

Chancel Choir

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. 717 *Let All Things Now Living*

ASH GROVE

*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: Steve Burrill

Ushers: Mary Lou Congdon and Susan Krivichi

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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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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