

# 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.*



*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*A Celebration of PRIDE in the United Church of Christ*

*The Lord's Day  
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
A Celebration of PRIDE in the United Church of Christ  
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**

Paul tells his Roman congregation that they are to be dead to sin, the result of life-giving faith in Christ Jesus. Sin is a subject which we tend to avoid or ignore, considering it an outdated and irrelevant topic of conversation. In many Christian circles, one person sin is another person pleasure! Today, we talk about sin that is committed by a host of the committed, the sin of exclusion and the failure to openly accept and affirm the creative characteristics, the unique features, commensurate with all God's human creation. As we join with our United Church of Christ brothers and sisters in celebrating PRIDE this morning, we are reminded of a beautiful tapestry, the glorious spectrum of a colorfully diverse rainbow reflecting the diversity of the human being and doing, a mirror of a divinely imaged humanity.

### **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 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. 53

*Morning Has Broken*

BUNNESAN

\*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 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!**

*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 Confession<sup>1</sup>

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 Confession<sup>2</sup>

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 to us as a people in covenant relationship with you as the beloved faith community you call us to be. 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 Pardon<sup>3</sup>

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 Time for the Children

#### The Witness from the Epistles

ROMANS 6:1b-11

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in

newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again! Death no longer has dominion over him! The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God! So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus!

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

**Thanks be to God!**

The Response: PSALM 86:1-10,16-17

O WALY WALY

*Incline your ear, O Lord, to us, for we are poor, and need your care!  
O God, the anchor of our trust! The truest answer to our prayers!*

*You, Lord, have shown to us your grace, in ways beyond our mortal sight!  
Before your face, we lift our souls! To sing your praise is our delight!*

*With steadfast love and mercy sure, God hears confession and forgives!  
Redeems the soul in which God dwells, and blest the heart wherein God lives!*

*All nations shall proclaim you God, and at your name all knees shall bend  
to glorify your righteousness and sing your praises without end!*

The Witness from the Gospels

MATTHEW 10:24-39

“A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master! It is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul! Rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell! Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid! You are of more value than many sparrows! Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven! But whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven! Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth! I have not come to bring peace but a sword! For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household! Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me! Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it!”

The Gospel for today!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon            *A Corpse Is a Corpse of Course, of Course!*     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. 433  
\*The Procession of the Light  
\*The Benediction and Blessing

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

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: Woody Chenault

Ushers: Mike Mettler and Joe Turpin

*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.*

<sup>1-3</sup> Reprinted by permission United Church Press from *Taught by Love*, by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 2002 by the Pilgrim Press.

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### **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 Johansen*

*Trisha Moore*

*Cathy Palmer*

*Deb Stolze*

*Steve Burrill*

*Clerk, Norma Yaeger*

*Pastor Parish Relations, Tobi Johansen*

*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*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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