

# 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.*



*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
Fourteenth 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**

In the Witness from the Gospels in Mathew Jesus complains that he is called “a gluten and a drunk,” reminding them that they claimed that his cousin John was possessed by a demon. Name calling hurts! The beginnings of many conflicts often begins with labels, branding a presumed opposition in a negative way. Perhaps today's Gospel reading is a reminder that if we stand strong for what we believe, stand firm in our convictions, we will be subjected to a variety of invectives. Perhaps being called names as a result of our witness, our testimony, should be worn as a badge of honor, an indicator that we are doing the right thing and make a difference in our world.

### **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

Enter this hospitably welcoming and inviting space where all who are weary and carry heavy burdens can find rest for their souls!

**With joy and gladness we have gathered in the presence of the One whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light!**

Come to a place where everyone can eat and drink from a table of abundance and generosity! Incline your ear before God, the One who bids us come and worship!

**With all peoples of all generations, we offer ourselves before the Holy One, the One whose name is celebrated in all the earth!**

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 139 (*Chalice Praise*) *Take, O Take Me As I Am*

Iona

## The Collect

God of immense riches, with unbridled, unmitigated joy, we have gathered in this sacred space, delighting with much gladness as we worship you this day, extravagantly celebrating the name of the Holy One, praising the One whose gifts of grace are available to us all; we give thanks to you through Jesus Christ our Lord for inviting us into your holy presence and giving rest to our weary and burdened souls; we thank you that you love and embrace, hospitably welcome and include, accept and affirm us, even when we resemble the worst among the human creation, even gluttons and drunkards, tax collectors and sinners; for the holy food and drink that is life in you, we give you thanks and praise; 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. 10

*Bring Many Names*

WESTCHASE

\*The Litany of Praise

Pay attention! Listen intently as you bow before the Holy, worshipping God in this sacred setting!

**Our gifts we bring, offerings before our God, all the riches that belong to the Holy One!**

Celebrate with joy, delighting with gladness the One whose name we perpetuate from one generation to the next!

**Let all peoples everywhere praise God forever and always, the One whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light!**

Thanks be to God through Christ Jesus, the one who bids us come, teaching us the ways of gentleness and humility!

**For God has freed us from every obstacle preventing us from becoming our best selves, from being all we can be, all that God intends for us! 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 Confession<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately, we are acutely aware that we live in a generation of complainers, rich in things but poor in spirit. Increasingly isolated because of our abundance, we often deny the community of mutual caring into which God has called us. It is easier for us to find fault with others, settling for the least common denominator, the path of least resistance, than to celebrate their inherent goodness. In the silence and stillness of these moments, let us confess before the Holy.

### The Silent Confession

The Anthem

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

Joseph Hart; arr. Hal Wright

Chancel Choir

### The Corporate Confession<sup>2</sup>

Let us pray to the Lord,

**God of gluttons and drunkards, tax collectors and sinners, and all the rest of us saints, many times we do not understand our own actions because we turn away from the good we intend to do. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and the joy that comes with celebrating life together, delighting with much gladness, but instead, we tend to get bogged down in our own hubris, our narcissistic concerns. We are frequently too busy to seek community and too pre-occupied to ponder your will for us. And thus, we usually go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and from one another. Graciously forgiving God, please help us to overcome these damaging tendencies.**

### The Assurance of Pardon<sup>3</sup>

Beloved faith community, hear the good news. God's forgiveness is realized most profoundly by those who understand their own emptiness and seek the refreshment God alone can provide. We are drawn to God and to one another by the eternal Holy Spirit who wills our unity, while offering to help with the burdens we carry, inviting us to find rest for our weary souls. We are reminded in Christ's assurance to us, "My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

**Thanks be to God!**

The Time for the Children

Carol Marshall

## The Witness from the Epistles

ROMANS 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions! For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate! Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good! But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me! For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh! For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability! For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do! Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me! So, I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand! For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members! Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin!

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

**Thanks be to God!**

## The Singing Response: PSALM 45:10-17

TOPLADY

*Sons and daughters of the earth, set your minds beyond your kin!  
Great the Lord, and great the courts God's elect may enter in!  
Glorious gifts, for mercy's sake, we are chosen to partake!  
Come with joy and highest praise into God's most sacred hall!  
Let your song of praise proclaim! God alone is Lord of all!  
Generations yet to be shall declare God's love to see!*

## The Witness from the Gospels

MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance! We wailed, and you did not mourn!’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds!” At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants! Yes, Father, for such was your gracious will! All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest! Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls! For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light!”

The Gospel for today!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon

*Was That Meant to be a Compliment?*

Timothy W. Shirley

The Solo

*Plowshare Prayer*

Spencer LaJoye; arr. Nate Terry

Jill Bierwirth, soprano

The Service of Holy Communion

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. 342

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

\*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.

*The flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today are given by Marilyn Preisler.*

Lector: Ursula Charaf

Ushers: Mike Mettler and Carlton Schroeder

*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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A note about the Choral Anthem, *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*, from *The Southern Harmony*.

A note about the solo, *Plowshare Prayer*: This heartfelt piece shines a new light on what sacred music can look like in the twenty-first century. With lyrics that can be called a modern Psalm, this piece of music truly has something for every listener to latch on to. May it provide comfort to the struggling, oppressed, and unseen. A note from composer Spencer LaJoye: "In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, I found myself working for three churches at once. And as much as I loved these communities, this work is draining, both physically and mentally. Soon, health challenges and moral struggles made me unable to serve those faith communities with the grace and integrity I always had. So, I listened to my body, and I left. This song was one of the last things I wrote during this time period. It's honest about my moral struggles and my pain, but it's also a love letter, and probably the most faithful thing I've ever written. It asks the question: what would a prayer sound like if it was used as a plowshare rather than a sword? A tool for growing new things in the most disregarded and traumatized places, rather than a weapon wielded by the institutionally powerful?"

### **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*

*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*

*Scholarship, Ursula Charaf*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

105 North First Street ~ PO Box 1385 ~ Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

Website: [eagleriverucc.org](http://eagleriverucc.org) Church Office: 715-802-8501 Email: [office@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:office@eagleriverucc.org)

Timothy W. Shirley: [pastortim@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:pastortim@eagleriverucc.org) [timwshirley@gmail.com](mailto:timwshirley@gmail.com)



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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