

# 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.*



*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day  
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
Twenty Sixth 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**

The apostle Paul tells the flock at Philippi, “Don’t be anxious about anything!” Of course, he wrote these words to a people who were anxiety ridden, as all the faithful were back in this day. The more things change, the more they stay the same! How can we be a non-anxious presence when the world around us seems to be on the verge of global conflict, what one writer calls a “multipolar” reality. Noah Smith opines, “A fully multipolar world has emerged, and people are belatedly realizing that multipolarity involves quite a bit of chaos.” We long to stay calm, cool, and collected as followers of Jesus, knowing that assuaging our fears and anxiety is not and never was his responsibility.

### **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

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

arr. Linda Lamb

Chime Choir; Susan Krivichi, director

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Gathering

On this day of celebration, proclaim a festival before the Lord! Rejoice in the steadfast love of God, giving glory to the One who saves with a mighty hand!

**On this high and holy feast day, we bring our best offerings of worship before the Holy One of Israel, the God of all people everywhere!**

As the gathered church, let the people rejoice in the Lord always! Again, our declaration this day shall be, "Let all the people rejoice in God!"

**We gather in the presence of the One who prepares a banquet table before us, a God of goodness and peace and love!**

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 49 (*Chalice Praise*)      *Sanctuary*      John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of goodness and love and peace, we have gathered to praise you this day, to give thanks and rejoice in the One who is good, giving glory to the One whose steadfast love endures forever; we declare this day a festival day to the Holy One, a day to bring our gifts before your holy altar; remember us this day, O Lord, and count us among your saints in glory; grant to us the rich legacy of your salvation promised to our ancestors; 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. 15      *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart*      MARION

\*The Litany of Praise

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the One whose goodness and steadfast love endures forever!

**Remember us, O Lord! Remember us as you show favor to your people!**

Who can declare the mighty doings of the Lord? Who can declare God's praise?

**We know it is those who observe justice that are happiest, those who seek righteousness at all times!**

Deliver us, God of our salvation, deliver us when you deliver your saints!

**May we prosper like your chosen ones, rejoicing with gladness to be counted among your people! 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>

God is not fooled by our pious words of faith. God knows our fascination with golden calves, with pastimes and possessions that take our attention and resources every day. Like our ancestors before us, we are prone to err in our behavior, fearing that we are deserving of God's wrath. As Moses implored God to spare the Hebrew people, we bring our petitions, seeking a fresh start. 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,

**God of all mercy, you have planted within us a desire to observe justice and do righteousness. We want to be fair and honorable, delighting in life shared openly and honestly with family, friends, and co-workers. Instead, we are often defensive, fearful, and distracted. We would rather spend more time with our toys than with your truth, seeking temporary thrills rather than lasting meaning. We are surprised by our disappointment when our "golden calves" bring us no fulfillment. We return to you, loving God, intent on following the guidance we are receiving from you. Save us from ourselves.**

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

Beloved faith community, hear the good news! Rejoice, knowing that God is always near. Our thanksgiving and our supplications are always heard. The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Find joyous focus for life in all that is honorable, just, pure, and excellent. Know that our goodwill is pleasing to God. We are chosen by God to share in the mind of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

## The Time for the Children

Pat Tucker

### The Witness from the Epistles

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all

understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

## The Singing Response: PSALM 106

ST. ANNE

*Our gracious Lord be always praised, give thanks to God above!  
The blessings we enjoy on earth are gifts of God's great love!*

*Remember, Lord, our faithfulness when in your courts we meet!  
May our degree of righteousness find mercy at your feet!*

*The chosen ones, from bondage freed, were sheltered in your fold!  
With hands then guided by their doubt, they cast an ox of gold!*

*The righteous remnant of their tribe redemption claimed them free!  
When my own judgement shall be due, be gracious unto me!*

## The Witness from the Gospels

MATTHEW 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The realm of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again, he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet!' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged! He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!' For many are called, but few are chosen!"

The Gospel for today!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon

*Anxiety Ridden!*

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

*Amazing Grace*

David Tolks

Tobi Johannsen, piano

A Stewardship Moment

Dale Bishop

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. 575

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

BEACH SPRING

\*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: Bill Marshall

Ushers: Kamie Kolb and Mike Mettler

Pianist: Tobi Johannsen

*The flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today are given by Mike and Sandra Mettler  
as they celebrate their 52<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary, October 16<sup>th</sup>.*

*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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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor*

*Debbie Brown, Church Administrator*

*Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education*

*Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music*

*Norma Yaeger, Pianist*

*Christine Clough, Cleaning Service*

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

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*Finance, Paula Hendrickson*

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*Safety and Security, Carlton Schroeder*

*Scholarship, Ursula Charaf*  
*Service Support Team, Joy Turpin*



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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