

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.



*Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day
Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty Seventh 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

Whoever those magical, mystical, lectionary editors were as they mixed and matched the readings for the three-year cycle of the Church Year, they made an interesting pairing for today with Exodus and Matthew. The writer of Exodus tells the story of Moses' desire to see God's glory, the very face of God! Allowing that audacious request would have meant sure and certain, instant, death. God does allow Moses, however, to see the backside of the Holy One as God passes by him. The Matthean writer tells the story of Jesus' encounter with Pharisees and Herodians as they set another trap to ensnare him. One side of the coin shows the image of Caesar. The other side must not have mattered!

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

Like our ancestors who once gathered to worship on a holy mountain, we too have come to extol the Lord our God!

Like Moses so very long ago, we long to see the glory of God in our midst!

Render unto God the things that belong to God, giving praise to the great and wonderful name of the Holy!

With joy in our hearts, we gather in the presence of the living and one true God!

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 64 (*Chalice Praise*) *More Precious than Silver*

Lynn DeShazo

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

Holy and jealous God, we have gathered in this sacred place to present ourselves to you, to meet the God of our ancestors, for all praise belongs to you; with reverence before the Holy, we come before the One we long to serve with sincerity and faithfulness; awaken us to your presence in this sacred hour; 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. 66 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

*The Litany of Praise

Our God reigns! Let praises resound! Let the people tremble before the One who is exalted over all people everywhere!

The earth quakes before the Holy, the One who is great among all nations!

Let everyone praise the great and awesome name of the Divine, the One whose holiness surrounds us with the glory of God!

Holy is the One whose love overflows with righteousness, executing justice for everyone, the One who has established fairness and equity among all people!

Extol the Lord our God, worshiping at God's footstool, for Holy is our God!

We gather at this holy mountain to worship, for the Lord our God is Holy! 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

We are invited to reflect on the wrongs we have done, the good we have neglected, and the motives that underlie our behavior. What are the idols that attract us, the responsibilities we seek to avoid, the schemes by which we pursue selfish advantages? God knows, yet even so, it is important that we recognize and acknowledge our failures. Only then, can we make our honest confessions. 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,

Holy God of transcendent mystery, how miniscule is our cleverness before the magnitude of your glory, the glorious awe and wonder that shrouds your being! How fleeting are our days measured against the far reaches of eternity! Yet we set our limited knowledge and restricted purposes against your will for us and presume to direct our own affairs and those of the whole world. We often feel as though we are trapped in our pretensions. Turn us from our need for proof to extravagant praise. Turn us inside out so our self-interests becomes concern for all your neglected children. Suppress in us the things that diminish our humanity, that which we find so difficult to manage on our own. We long to joyously render to you all that is already yours.

The Assurance of Pardon³

Beloved faith community, hear the good news. When we allow God to touch us, our malice is removed from within us, our fears are defeated, our failures are forgiven. God raises us from death to new life, from helplessness to hope, from arrogant self-seeking to humble service. Enter into the joy of true worship!

Thanks be to God!

The Time for the Children

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people!' But you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people." God said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and

Lori Hunter

EXODUS 33:12-23

your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.” The Lord said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Please show me your glory!” And God said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The Lord,’ and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” God said, “you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live!” And the Lord continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen!”

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

Thanks be to God!

The Singing Response: PSALM 99

LEONI

*God reigns, enthroned on high! Let all the earth proclaim
with trembling lips the awesome might of God's great name!*

*A holy Lord, whose rule is marked with equity!
Whose righteousness to us is bound all time to be!*

*Unto the priests of old who called upon God's name,
the Law was spoken from the clouds, and wrought in flame!*

*To God's commands give heed! In faith, endure always!
Let Yahweh's love forever ring with songs of praise!*

The Witness from the Gospels

MATTHEW 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So, they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax!” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” They answered, “Caesar’s!” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s!” When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The Gospel for today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Two Sides of the Same Coin!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

A Stewardship Moment

Donna DePape

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. 464 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

*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: Doug Malinsky

Ushers: Barb Flaherty 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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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

October 22, 2023