

# 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 Third Sunday after Pentecost  
Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
A Celebration of All Saints

*The Lord's Day*  
*Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost*  
*Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*A Celebration of All Saints*  
*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<sup>1</sup>**

All Saints Day always occurs on the first day of November. As with many churches, we at First Congregational United Church of Christ celebrate this high holy feast day on the following Sunday. Many people fail to realize that Halloween, which has been reduced to a secular day emphasizing the dark side of human existence, with a particular focus on ghosts, goblins, witches, and the macabre, was traditionally known as All Hallows Eve indicating the significance of this sacred day on the liturgical calendar. On this day, we pay tribute to and honor the memory of the lives of the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, including those who have died from within our own congregation during the last year. Today we celebrate saints past, present, and future, all of us included!

### **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

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

**We gather to worship the One who satisfies our hunger and quenches our thirst!**

Come children of God, blessed by the Holy One! Rejoice and be glad, for your heavenly reward awaits you!

**"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen!"**

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 44 (*Chalice Praise*)

*Open Our Eyes, Lord*

Bob Cull

The Collect<sup>2</sup>

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of saints and sinners, you have surrounded us with a great legacy of faithful followers and by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth; grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this beloved fellowship of love and prayer, knowing ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy; timeless God, as we celebrate the lives of your saints, so great a cloud of witnesses to all your glorious deeds and all the wonders in our midst, we thank you for all those who have gone before us, who have kept the faith to the end; we thank you for brave souls who risked persecution and martyrdom, whose names are remembered only by you; awaken in us the wisdom to understand your will and the courage to live as your people in this day; all this pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

\*The Opening Hymn, No. 637

*For All the Saints*

SINE NOMINE

\*The Litany of Praise

Bless the Lord always! At all times and in all places may God's praise continually be in our mouths!

**Our souls boast in the Lord! Let the humble hear and be glad!**

Magnify the Lord! Let the whole congregation exalt the name of God forever!

**We have sought the Holy One who hears our cries and delivers us from all fear!**

O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy are those who take refuge in God!

**God fills the faithful with good things, redeeming those who seek refuge in the Holy One! 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>3</sup>

When God sets the table before us, all will be welcome with open arms, hospitably invited to the Great Banquet Feast, a sign reminding us all that God's realm is constantly being ushered into our hurting and needy world: the young and the old, those who were faithful and those who failed, those who followed Jesus and those who lost their way. Let us confess to God our unsaintly ways, knowing how quick God is to forgive. In the silence and stillness of these moments, let us confess before the Holy.

### The Silent Confession

#### The Corporate Confession<sup>4</sup>

Let us pray to the Lord,

**Forgive us, maker of saints, when we follow the wrong examples and listen to false teachings. It is the peacemakers who live into your hope. It is those whose hearts are shaped by yours who are able to see you in the poor and the broken. It is those who give themselves to serve others who are your saints, following the example of Christ Jesus, humble shepherd, guiding us to the wellsprings of life.**

#### The Assurance of Pardon<sup>5</sup>

Beloved faith community, hear the good news of All Saints! When we seek God, we are found! When we cry out, we are heard! When we confess, we are forgiven and made new! We can taste the intoxication of your grace, drinking the deep wine of hope, finding our home in God's heart, receiving mercy and new life.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### The Time for the Children

Carol Marshall

#### *The Service of Remembrance*

The Anthem *When My Lips Can Frame No Sound* John Amos Comenius and Jay Althouse  
Chancel Choir

#### The Call to Awareness<sup>6</sup>

We gather this morning to celebrate the lives of persons we name as saints.

**Some of them are living, others have completed their physical lives here on earth.**

Some have touched us personally. Others have touched and called into question the institutions and structures of our society.

**But all have shaken our being!**

All have been examples of lives of wholeness, working for justice.

**We celebrate these persons and their lives in all aspects of God's creation!**

## The Remembrance of Saints<sup>7</sup>

The saints who still live among us call our attention to God in unexpected ways and at unexpected times. They enable us to see faith and life in new ways. They help us find our way a little, not so much by pointing it out to us, as by the way they themselves walk in the world.

**And the great cloud of witnesses around us, the saints triumphant in glory. Their witness calls forth in us belief and hope and strength, helps us lay aside every encumbrance and sin that entangles us, and lets us run with endurance the race that is set before us.**

Sisters and brothers, saints of God, as we honor the saints who are now walking with us on this journey, inspiring us to press on; and as we bear witness to the great multitude that has gone before us, we remember them as those who taught us to hold fast to our faith.

**Let us during this time of remembrance join our hearts in a prayer of thanksgiving for those we have called saints and whose lives have pointed us toward God. We remember this day:**

## The Saints

*Doreen Boxrud, Marilyn Dunphy, Marlys Lorraine Swart Lee, Jim Steiner  
And all those who are in our hearts and on our minds,  
those we miss today and every day.*

The Hymn for All Saints (insert) *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* GRAND ISLE

## The Prayer of Remembrance<sup>8</sup>

Let us pray to the Lord.

Each day is an occasion for giving thanks for life. But on this day, we pause to thank you for particular lives. We thank you for the people whose deaths brought to our souls the dark night of sorrow and whose living memories now bring us the light of day. Each of them possessed something worth remembering, something loved, something sacred, something honorable, something good. For the lives of each of these persons, and for the lives of all those who have no one to remember their names, we give you thanks.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We thank you for holding in your care those you sent ahead of us. They prepared a road, marking its pitfalls, digging wells for our thirst, building shelters for our

rest. Not always did they know who would follow them, but they pressed on. Sometimes they stumbled, many times they were injured, but they went on carrying a spark of the divine within them.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Now we travel that road, which is different, yet the same. Now that we are preparing the way for those who will come after us, we are awed by the responsibility. Help us by your Spirit to mark a clear path for our children and their children. May our faith give a small light to their way.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Hymn of Reflection, No. 638     *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*     PROMISE  
The Litany for All Saints<sup>9</sup>

God, our creator, we praise you for the saints: for saints who have gone before us, for saints who are alive today, for saints in our midst, and for the sainthood in us all.

**God of love, we thank you for saints who have loved us, for families through whom we were created, for people who taught us of your love.**

For matriarchs and patriarchs, prophets and priests, for disciples, apostles, leaders and servants.

**For pastors and missionaries, educators and healers, clerks and cooks.**

God, to whom we come in faith, we thank you for the faith of the saints who have gone before us, for your forgiveness that brings us hope.

**God of justice and peace, we honor saints whose peaceful ways give vision of your realm.**

We are renewed by the courage of the saints of history and are inspired by the saints who walk among us today.

**May your Holy Spirit move each of us to be helpers and preachers, teachers and peacemakers, visionary sculptors and potters who continually create a new dream of your church on this earth.**

May we sense the presence of the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us as we live our lives.

**As they heard your call and courageously proclaimed their faith, may we hear your call and faithfully respond in kind. Amen and Amen!**

The Music for Reflection

## The Witness from the Epistles

I JOHN 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know God. Beloved, we are God's children now! What we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when God is revealed, we will be like the Holy One, for we will see God as God is. And all who have this hope in God purify themselves, just as God is pure.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

## The Response: PSALM 107:1-7, 33-37 (insert)

MORNING SONG

*Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries*

## The Witness from the Gospels

MATTHEW 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat. Therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others, but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others, for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted!"

The Gospel for today!

**Thanks be to God!**

## The Sermon

*What Kind of Love?!?*

Timothy W. Shirley

## A Stewardship Moment

Joy Turpin

## 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. 635

*Faith of Our Fathers*

ST. CATHERINE

\*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: Barbara Helmick

Ushers: Kamie Kolb and Susan Krivichi

***The flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today are given by  
Leta Cole in honor of her mother Linda Cole's birthday.***

*The color for A Celebration of All Saints is White, symbolizing purity, celebration, and joy,  
and recalling that the death of the saints represents their "birthday" into eternal life with God.*

*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>1,6-9</sup>Adapted from *Worship Resources for Christian Congregations: A Symphony for the Senses*, by C. Welton Gaddy and Don W. Nixon, © 1995 by Smyth & Helwys Publishing, Inc. Used by permission.

<sup>2</sup>Timothy W. Shirley; with adaptations from Gaddy and Nixon.

<sup>3-5</sup>Adapted from *Lectionary Liturgies*, Tom Schumann, internet download.

Today's scripture lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Updated Edition.

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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## **CHURCH STAFF**

*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**

*President, Donna Adams*

*Kristen Anchor*

*Steve Burrill*

*Carol Marshall*

*Trisha Moore*

*Eric Olsen*

*Deb Stolze*

*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*

*Service Support Team, Joy Turpin*

# Concerns of the Church

**Stewardship Campaign:** Church Council member Trisha Moore has graciously agreed to be the point person for stewardship this year. Over the course of the next few weeks, you will hear from several church members reminding us all of the gifts of being a part of this church and why our gifts of support are important. Our Stewardship Campaign will culminate with a blessing of pledges on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. May this season of discernment inspire us to new heights as we continue to live into a bright future day by day.

**Coffee Hour** is offered every Sunday following worship. Please stop by for refreshments and some wonderful conversation! After all, fellowship is the spice of the steeple!!!

**Prayer Concerns:** As we worship today our thoughts are with Nancy Diepenbrock, Ruth Hibbard, Molly Jaeger, Gary and Bernice Gilbert, Marshall Patten, Sharon Adler, and Bernard and Mary Stanke. We continue to pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. We also pray for Israelis and Palestinians who have been horribly impacted because of the HAMAS terrorist invasion of Israel.

Please remember to bring your **coins** to contribute to the **Melody of Compassion** fund, the proceeds of which go toward helping those in our community who are in need.

Just a reminder that the **Church Council** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room. Church members are welcome to attend. The next meeting is November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Volunteers** are always needed. You may sign up by visiting our website or you may also contact Debbie Brown in the church office or Joy Turpin at joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com or 715-479-6560.

**November Collection:** This month we are supporting Women's Fellowship in their effort to keep those in need warm this winter. We are collecting winter hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks for men, women and children. Please give as you are able. Thank you.

**Frederick Place:** We are back asking for help to prepare our chili dinner for Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks, Susan and Mary Lou!

Please stop by the Church Office and get your food containers that you took to Nancy Diepenbrock.

Please sign the ***“Welcome to Our Worship”*** sheets that are in each pew.

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

November 5, 2023

