

# 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.*



*Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day  
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Fifth 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 Epistles in I Corinthians the apostle Paul brags about not bragging, making the absurd statement, a guarantee that he would be all things to all people for the sake of preaching the gospel and saving souls. It seems so counter-intuitive, hypocritical to be honest! The apostle comes across like a chameleon! Does the model that Paul offers us have any credibility, any integrity, any merit whatsoever? Is there any way to use this template in our contemporary context? As with all things Bible, the answer is probably more complicated than it seems!

### **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

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving! Make melody to God in the sanctuary! Lift your eyes to the One on high! Come before the One told to you from the beginning!

**We gather to worship the creator of the heavens and the earth, the One who numbers the stars, the One we have known from the dawn of creation!**

Render praise unto the One of whom you have heard from days of old, singing praises to God, the Holy One befitting songs of praise!

**We wait for the One called mighty, strong, and powerful, the One whose steadfast love renews our strength, making us mount up with wings like eagles!**

Let us worship God!

The Introit (insert)

*Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus*

Helen H. Lemmel

## The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of grace and love, we have come to sing praises to you, to sing a song of praise befitting our God; we lift our eyes to you, O Lord, to the One who is gracious and loving, the One called powerful and mighty, full of power and might, the One who blesses us and gives us hope; we wait for the Holy to renew our strength, the One who empowers us to mount up with wings like eagles, that we might run and not be weary, that we might walk and not grow faint, living lives worthy of the calling of the one whose gospel we proclaim in this place; 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. 22 *All Creatures of Our God and King* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\*The Litany of Praise

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our gracious God! How fitting it is to sing a song of praise before the Holy!

**God gathers the outcasts and uplifts the downtrodden! The Holy One heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds!**

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving, making melody to our God, singing to the One who names and numbers the stars!

**Great is our God, abundant in power and might! Strong is the One whose understanding is beyond all measure!**

God covers the heavens with clouds, preparing rain for the earth, making grass grow on the hills, providing for all creation!

**The Holy One takes pleasure in those who fear God, delighting in those whose hope is in the steadfast love of the Holy! 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>

We are called to come away from our pretensions to examine our relationship with God. We need to break away from our illusions of independence to realize our responsibility in the church. Let us claim our unity in Christ with all the children of God, realizing how much we need to confess brokenness and seek healing. 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,

**Who are we to claim equality with you, ruler of all worlds? Yet we try to order you around when it is we who should be taking orders. At times, we act as if we can get along without you. In our local congregation, we often pretend that we do not need other congregations. It is our prerogative to hoard the gospel as if it were our sole possession, and thus we frequently do not follow its mandates. We bend your law to our own whims and then excuse our disobedience. Forgive us and restore us, we pray.**

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

Beloved faith community, hear the good news! God calls each one of us by name. Every community of faith is known to God, whose understanding is unlimited. The One who knows our hearts is eager to forgive those who truly seek forgiveness and to empower those who have grown weary. Our strength is being renewed in these moments. We will mount up with wings like eagles. We will run and not be weary. We will walk and not faint.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Time for the Children

Joy Turpin

The Witness from the Epistles

I CORINTHIANS 9:16-23

For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach! Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward! If not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel. Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to

win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some! I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings!

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

**Thanks be to God!**

The Response: PSALM 147:1-11, 20c

SINE NOMINE

*Praise to the Lord, for it is good to praise!  
God, who the loving heart with love repays!  
Whose gracious kindness blesses us always!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*God makes the broken heart rejoice once more!  
A healing ointment on our wounds will pour!  
Our feeble spirits shall the Lord restore!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Great is the Lord, abundant in the care  
provided for all creatures everywhere!  
To God's rich love, no earthly loves compare!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Our greatest strength is weakness in God's sight!  
In our ambitions, God does not delight,  
but for our constant will to live aright!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The Witness from the Gospels

MARK 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So, he went to her, took her hand, and helped her up. The fever left her, and she began to wait on them. That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also! That is why I have come!" So, he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons!

The Gospel for today!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Anthem

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Thomas Dorsey

The Sermon

*All Things and All People!*

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

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. 21 *Let the Whole Creation Cry*

LLANFAIR

\*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, 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: Barb Helmick

Ushers: Kamie Kolb 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 used in our sanctuary, 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 and Comforter; Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.*

***The flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today are given by Gene and Janet Yahr in honor of their 66<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and by Linda Cole in celebration of Leta Cole's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.***

<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*  
*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*



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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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