

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.*



*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

The Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Tenth 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 early Church only thought that it had settled for all time the dilemma regarding the nature of Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus, determining him to be both man and God, human and divine. Well, leave it to progressive to not leave well enough alone. The great debate has been revived and continues to rage in Christian circles, challenging as ever. The dichotomy, if we can call it that, between the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith seems to be widening, poor theology, driven by narrow minded, sectarian, fundamentalists pushing a white Christian nationalist agenda driving the discussion. Today, we tiptoe into the shallow waters of the conversation in the hopes of spawning a deeper congregational dialogue at a later point in time.

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

Come into the presence of the Lord your God in this sacred setting! Shout with praise, rejoicing in the One whose realm has come near to us, dwelling in our midst!

We have gathered to worship the One who hears us when we call, who listens for the voices of the faithful as they cry out to God!

With sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving we gather in this sacred sanctuary, sanctified by the Holy One, singing gladsome songs of joy in this time of worship!

May the Spirit of the Lord anoint us in this house, filling us until we are overflowing with the love of God!

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 495

Weave

Rosemary Crow

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

Anointing God, we have come into this sanctuary to give praise and thanks to you, to shout with joy to the One who listens when we call; hear our petitions this day, faithful God, and make us a new creation in your son; all this we 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. 91 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

CORONATION

*The Litany of Praise

The Holy One hears us in days of trouble, protecting the faithful in the glorious name of God!

God sends us help far beyond the sacred confines of this holy sanctuary, continually giving us faithful support from the heavens above!

God remembers every offering brought before the Holy, regarding each gift, blessed with the favor of God!

The desire of our hearts is for the Holy One, the God to whom we shout for joy!

God hears our petitions, listening for our voices from a holy heaven as we render our praises before the Lord!

Our pride is in the name of the Lord our God, the One who strengthens us, leading us by a strong hand! 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

Each one of us has a mandate from God to give our best and bear fruit in building the realm of God. We who gather in the house of God are called to be a beloved faithful community in which all bow humbly before God, motivated by the love of Christ. This is a time to examine ourselves before our creator. In the sacred silence and stillness of our moments together, let us confess before the Holy.

The Silent Confession

The Corporate Confession²

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of all truth, who can stand before you? We sometimes judge by outward appearances, but you examine our hearts. Frequently, we see what is on the surface, but you discern beauty deep within. We often measure importance by paychecks, but you find value among those we tend to deem lowly and insignificant. We sometimes forget your promises and turn to pursuits that separate us from you and destroy community. We seek forgiveness and a new direction for our lives.

The Anthem

We Are Yours, Lord

words, Nancy Price and Don Besig; music, Don Besig

Chancel Choir

The Assurance of Pardon³

Hear the good news! All of us must stand with transparency before Christ, whose grace awaits each one of us today and every day. When we come with true repentance, we are victorious! Christ lived for us that we might no longer live only for ourselves. In Christ, we no longer regard others from a human point of view. We are a new creation. The old has passed away! The new has come! We can live confidently, urged on by the love of Christ, overflowing with joy, emboldened and empowered for daring service.

Thanks be to God!

The Time for the Children

George Langley

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

I SAMUEL 15:34-16:13

Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that God had made Saul king over Israel. The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out! I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me!" And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord!' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you!" Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to

Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably! I have come to sacrifice to the Lord! Sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice!” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely God’s anointed is now before the Lord!” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see. They look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart!” Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these!” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one!” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Thanks be to God!

The Response, PSALM 20

MERLE’S TUNE

*Lord, hear our supplications, for trouble is at hand!
And be to us a strong defense when foes against us stand!
Remember then our tributes, each sacrifice we see!
Accept them as your honor due and bring us victory!*

*The Lord shall with a victor’s crown adorn the servant’s head!
God’s foes proclaim their own conceit, we praise the Lord instead!
Their pride falls to destruction, yet we are ever brave,
Assured God’s purpose is to judge, God’s mercy is to save!*

The Witness from the Gospels

MARK 4:26-34

He also said, “The realm of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come.” He also said, “With what can we compare the realm of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel for today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

The Human Factor!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

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. 14 *Womb of Life and Source of Being*

IN BABILONE

*The Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

*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, 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: Mark Johannsen

Ushers: Mike Mettler and Joe Turpin

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.

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 counted backwards from the Reign of Christ and emphasizes personal faith development and nurture, and the growth and enhancement of the Church and the churches.

***The flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today are given
by Tobi Johannsen in honor of all fathers.***

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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