

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.*

Walk with *Jesus*

*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Twelfth 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

Today's gospel lesson presents a story within a story! The tale of the healing of an unnamed woman with a 12-year hemorrhage is nestled within the story of the healing of Jairus' daughter. These intertwined, radically different stories of healing relate the tale of two people who, when they came into contact with Jesus, were transformed from death to life. These stories point to the central posture of the Christian life: Christ touching us, and our touching Christ. In that posture—in that embrace— we discover our identity as beloved, redeemed, and holy children of God. In order to have life, we must, like the hemorrhaging woman, take the risk of reaching out and touching. We must also allow ourselves to be touched. Eternal life will be experienced when we take the risk of reaching out to God and in partnership with Christ realize our own God-given potential.

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

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord! We implore you to hear our voices as we come into your presence this day!

Let the ears of the One who is our hope and our redeemer be attentive to the cries voiced in our supplications!

With utmost eagerness we gather before the One on whom our souls wait, the God of forgiveness and steadfast love!

May the gifts of our worship this day be acceptable before the Holy One, our generous God who fills us with abundant blessings!

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 hope and peace, from the depths of our being we have come to worship you, to voice our supplications before the One who blesses and redeems us; hear the voices of your faithful people who have gathered in reverence to wait on you this day; grant us your presence, God of faithful love, as we wait in hope for your Spirit among us, that we may know your forgiveness and your steadfast love; 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 (insert)

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

*The Litany of Praise

The Holy One hears our cries from the depths! Praise God who hears the voices of the faithful!

The Lord is attentive to the voices of our supplications and forgives all our iniquities!

With reverence our souls wait for the Lord! In God's word we have placed our hope!

Our souls wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, our hope secure in the Holy One!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, with God there is plenteous redemption!

It is God who redeems the people from the depth of their despair! 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

Surrounded by the steadfast love of God, we gain courage to examine our lives and our relationships.

Together we confess the sin that cuts us off from our creator and separates us from one another.

In the sacred silence and stillness of these moments, let us confess before the Holy.

The Silent Confession

The Corporate Confession²

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of peace, we confess that many times we have relied too much on the weapons of war. We seem to be more ready to honor warriors than to give support to those who work diligently for peace, justice, and equality of opportunity. You have given us much as we have often misspent the abundant blessings you have provided, creating idols and pursuing illusions of pleasure. Redemptive God, forgive us and re-center us in ways that really matter.

The Assurance of Pardon³

Hear the good news! If God marked iniquities, who could stand? Yet there is forgiveness from the source of life. There is power to redeem us from the most grievous sin we can commit. God offers steadfast love to re-center our lives. When we revere God, all else in life is seen in a new light.

What was dead in us is brought to new life. Our brokenness is healed. Our priorities are changed.

Thanks be to God!

The Time for the Children

Nancy Diepenbrock and Quincy

The Witness from the Epistles

II CORINTHIANS 8:7-15

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am, by mentioning the eagerness of others, testing the genuineness of your love. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter, I am giving my opinion: it is beneficial for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something. Now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. For I do not mean that there should be relief for others and hardship for you, but it is a question of equality between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may also supply your need, in order that there may be equality. As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little!”

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

Thanks be to God!

*From the depths we cry to you,
Savior, Lord, our prayers renewed!
Who can stand the press of sin?
Those who in your grace believe!
Mark not our iniquity,
Lest the burden break our hearts!
Not our hearts alone, but yours,
For with mercy great you are!*

*For the Lord our souls await!
In God's word, our hope is laid!
As the sentries by the dawn
for their patience are repaid!
Hope in God, O Israel!
God, whose steadfast love is sure!
Who for us redemption brings!
God, whose mercies shall endure!*

The Witness from the Gospels

MARK 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him, and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue, named Jairus, came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live!" So, he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had, and she was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his cloak, I will be made well!" Immediately her flow of blood stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my cloak?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well! Go in peace and be healed of your disease!" While he was still speaking, some people came from the synagogue leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead! Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the synagogue leader, "Do not be afraid; only believe!" He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the synagogue leader's house, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping!" And they laughed at him! Then he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand, he said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, get

up!” And immediately the girl stood up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement! He strictly ordered them that no one should know this and told them to give her something to eat.

The Gospel for today!
Thanks be to God!

The Sermon *A Reason to Offend!* **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 (insert) *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*
*The Extinguishing of the Altar Candles
*The Procession of the Light
*The Benediction and Blessing

ST. ANNE

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: Woody Chenault

Ushers: Susan Krivichi 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.

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.

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