## 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.



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

The lection for the Witness from the Gospels in Mark today presents a story within a story! The tale of the healing of an unnamed woman with a twelve-year hemorrhage is nestled within the story of the raising of Jairus' daughter. These intertwined stories of healing and raising describe the way that human beings are transformed in their encounters with Jesus. Each narrative points to a central theme of the Christian life: Christ touching us, and our touching Christ. In that reciprocal embrace we discover our identity as beloved and redeemed, cured, healed, mended, made whole, reminded that we are all holy children of God, uniquely created in the divine image. To experience the abundant life offered in Jesus, we must, like the hemorrhaging woman, take the risk of reaching out and touching. We must also allow ourselves to be touched. Eternal life is accessed in the here and now, experienced when we take the risk of reaching out to God in partnership with Christ realizing 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 Gathering

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord! Gathered in this sacred time of worship, we long for 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, a God who blesses us with forgiveness and steadfast love!

May the gifts of our worship this day be acceptable before the Holy One, a 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, the One who heals and raises our spirits, 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 to move 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 of our souls, stirring from deep within our yearning spirits! All praise to the One who hears the voices of the faithful!

The Lord is attentive to our supplications, forgiving all our iniquities, listening to the prayers of all people everywhere!

With an impatiently yearning reverence manifest in this sacred setting, we anxiously wait for the Lord! In God's eternal word, we have placed our hope and our trust!

Our souls wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, the hope of our future secure in the mystery of the holy presence of God!

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

God redeems all people everywhere from the depths of their despair, lifting up the lowly, assuaging all our fears! 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>1</sup>

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 Confession<sup>2</sup>

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of peace and human wholeness, 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, and yet 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 Pardon<sup>3</sup>

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
The Witness from the Epistles

Carol Marshall 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!

#### The Response, PSALM 9:9-20

**ABERYSTWYTH** 

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

Cured, Healed, Whole!

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) Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

\*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: Joy Turpin

Concerns: Barbara Helmick

Ushers: Mary Lou Congdon and Kamie Kolb

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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