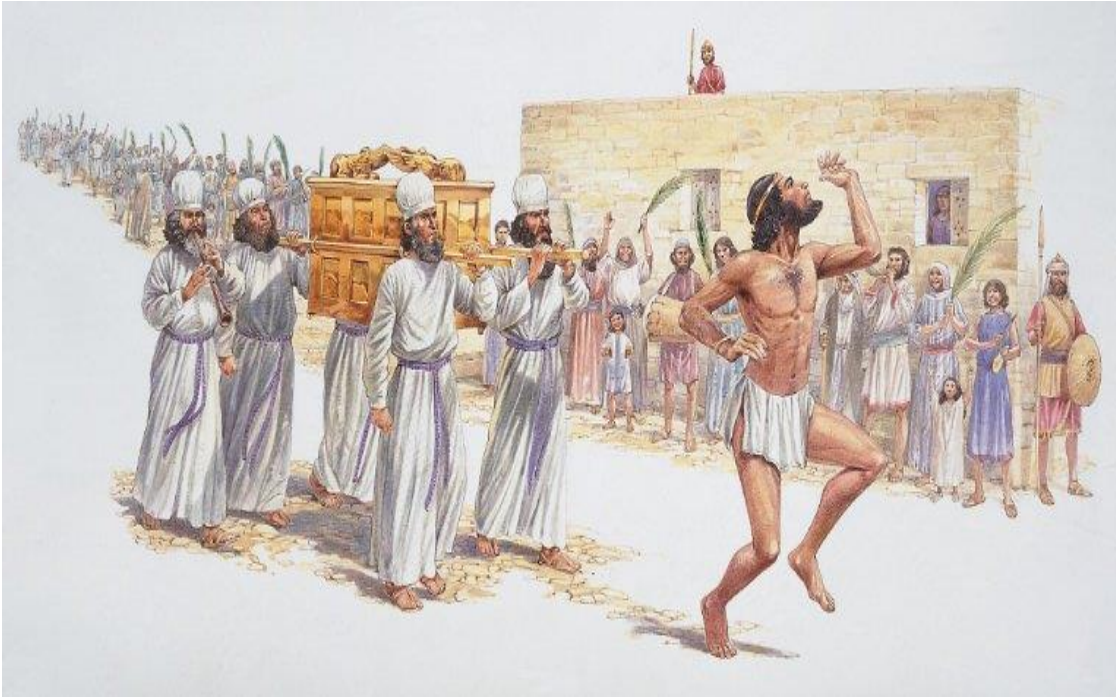


First Congregational United Church of Christ

*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.*



*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
A Celebration Receiving New Members*

*The Lord's Day
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
A Celebration Receiving New Members
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 two of the lectionary readings for today, dancing takes center stage as a major theme guiding the storylines. In the Gospel of Mark, we read the horrific story of how John the Baptizer lost his head, victimized by the dirty dance performed by Herod's daughter Herodias as part of his birthday celebration, Herod's sensual progeny asking for the head of the Baptist on a silver platter, the prophet beheaded on the spot. We are ignoring that text in our sermon for today! The real deal for our homiletical journey is the lection from II Samuel in which King David dances before the sacred ark of the covenant as it wound its way on a circuitous journey to its final and ultimate resting place in Jerusalem, the city of David, the city of God, Zion. What might dancing reveal to us as we seek our faithful pathways as followers of Jesus?

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

With shouts of joy and the sound of the trumpet, give praise with all your might as we come before the Holy, to join once again in this wonderful liturgical dance!

We have gathered in this holy place to worship the God of glory, to praise the strong and mighty One who is the Lord of hosts!

With dancing and songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals, bring your gifts before the Holy!

May our praise this day reflect the glory and grace of the One, who before the foundation of the world, chose us to be holy and blameless before the Lord!

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 139 (*Chalice Praise*) *Take, Oh Take Me As I Am* Iona

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

Holy Lord of hosts, we have gathered to worship this day with all our might, to experience the God of glory in this precious time we spend together; may our acts of praise in this sacred setting recall the day that David and the Israelites danced before the ark of God with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals; blessed be the God and holy parent of our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who has gloriously blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places; 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) *Lord of the Dance* LORD OF THE DANCE

*The Litany of Praise

The earth belongs to the Lord and all that is contained within it, the world, and those who dwell therein!

The Holy One has formed the earth on the seas and established it on the rivers!

Lift up your heads, O gates, and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the God of glory may enter here! Who is the God of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in all the earth! Praise the Lord of hosts, the God of glory!

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord and who shall stand in God's holy place? For such is the company of those who seek the face of the Holy One!

Blessed be the God and parent of Christ Jesus our Lord, the One who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places! 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

God has chosen us to be holy and blameless in love before our creator. In our hearts, we know there are times when we do not measure up to that high calling. Oft times, we have built barriers in our lives that rub against the grain of true communion with the Holy One, damaging that sacred relationship, as we seek to build honest community with God and with one another. In our prayer of confession, we seek help to remove those barriers. 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 all hope and blessing, hear us as we turn to you with all our hearts. So often, we have not been faithful to your lovingly gracious word. Many times, we have hurt others and held grudges. Sometimes we have been jealous, deceitful, and ungrateful. At times, we have turned from your word and resisted the irresistibly yearning presence of the Holy Spirit. Glorious God, we plead for your forgiveness and healing that we might respond with joy to the spiritual blessings you offer.

The Assurance of Pardon³

Hear the good news! The grace of God is freely given to us in Christ Jesus, through whom we are redeemed and forgiven. Let us set our hope on Christ, living each day to offer our praise to the glory of God, ever seeking the truth that frees us to live fully and triumphantly. Join in the dance of gratitude and joy, sharing with others the abundant love God has poured into our lives.

Thanks be to God!

The Time for the Children

Carol Marshall and Timothy W. Shirley

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

II SAMUEL 6:1-5,12b-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God, and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. It was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him because of the ark of God." So, David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing, and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatted calf. David danced before the Lord with all his might! David was girded with a linen ephod! So, David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King

David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart. They brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

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

Thanks be to God!

The Response, PSALM 24

Lift up Your Heads

Joseph M. Martin and John Paige

Chancel Choir; Norma Yaeger, piano

The Witness from the Gospels

MARK 6:14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah!" And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old!" But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife!" And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests, and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it!" And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom!" She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer!" Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter!" The king was deeply grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

The Gospel for today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Let's Dance!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

A Missionary Moment

Andy and Sarah Pollock, missionaries to refugees in Bosnia

The Reception of New Members ⁴

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. 290 *I Cannot Dance O Love* BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR

*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: Marti Rosenthal

Ushers: Miriam Chenault 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.

The flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today are given by Barb Flaherty in honor of her granddaughter Kenora Legler's 7th birthday.

¹⁻³ Reprinted by permission United Church Press from *Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B*, by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

⁴ Adapted from *Book of worship: United Church of Christ*. Reprinted © 2020 by United Church of Christ, Local Church Ministries, Cleveland, Ohio. All rights reserved. © 1986 by United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, New York. All rights reserved.

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

All music and text is reprinted through permission of either copyright licenses:

OneLicense Annual Reprint License: A-738560; expires March 20, 2025.

CCLI Copyright License 1562668; expires October 31, 2024.

CHURCH COUNCIL

President, Donna Adams

Kristen Anchor

Steve Burrill

Carol Marshall

Trisha Moore

Eric Olsen

Deb Stolze

Clerk, Norma Yaeger

MINISTRY CHAIRPERSONS

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

Corresponding Secretary, Kelli Burrill

CHURCH STAFF

Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor

Debbie Brown, Church Administrator

Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education

Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music

Linda Brainard, Pianist

Norma Yaeger, Pianist

Christine Clough, Cleaning Service



First Congregational United Church of Christ

105 North First Street ~ PO Box 1385 ~ Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

Website: eagleriverucc.org Church Office: 715-802-8501 E-mail: office@eagleriverucc.org

Timothy W. Shirley: timwshirley@gmail.com



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

July 14, 2024