

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.*



*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Fifteenth 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

These are troubling times. The world in many places is at war. Civil and religious unrest seems to be at an all time high. Anxiety is the order of the day. Our country and the world needs a sabbath. All people, each one of us, need a sabbath. In the Witness from the Gospels in Mark, Jesus seeks to find a place of respite and retreat for himself and his weary disciples, giving themselves some much needed rest and relaxation. Due to the needs of the throngs who sought Jesus' care, the rabbi and his disciples were unable to stop and get their desperately desired away time. That is often the case with us! Yet sabbath is so essential to our wellbeing as human beings. We pray for our world and for ourselves. Perhaps part of our finding at least some semblance of sabbath is in finding ways to be civil in our relationships, to find peace and oneness as diverse peoples whenever that goal is possible. As we read the Pauline epistles, we find that building harmony and unity was an essential part of the evangelistic mission of Paul as he carried out his ministry of starting and strengthening churches. The apostle sought diligently to mix and merge Gentiles and Jews, making them into cohesive congregations.

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

In the presence of the Holy, come away to a quiet place and rest awhile, experiencing sabbath in the sacred setting of this sanctuary!

We have gathered to worship God in the spirit of the One who proclaims peace to everyone near and far!

Render praise to the One who seeks reconciliation, the One who breaks down the walls of hostility between all peoples!

The Holy One dwells in this, the holy temple of God! This is the household of our God!

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 49 (*Chalice Praise*) *Sanctuary* John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of faithfulness and steadfast love, we have come into this place of rest, this sabbath setting to worship you, to be drawn into the presence of the One who brings us peace and whose love endures for all time; anoint us this day with your Holy Spirit in this your holy temple, drawing us into your presence in this, our holy time together, strengthening us through the cornerstone of our faith in Christ Jesus; 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. 25 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

*The Litany of Praise

The servants of God are anointed with holiness from above!

The hand of the Lord is upon us, the arm of the Lord strengthening us!

The faithfulness and steadfast love of God is always with us, surrounding us, exalting everyone who calls upon the Holy!

The Lord is our God, the rock of our salvation, the One whose love for the faithful remains steadfast to the end!

The holy covenant of God stands firm and shall not be violated, an unalterable word that comes from the lips of the Holy!

Our covenant with the Holy One shall endure like the sun, established forever like the moon, an enduring witness etched in the skies! 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

Alienated from our spiritual selves, we come to this time of confession seeking wholeness amid a fragmented and violent world. The false promise of a good life, filled with things, has erected barriers among us. There are dividing walls of hostility separating the people of God. We are called to admit our role in this brokenness. 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 times and places, we confess that we have sometimes wandered after the false gods of this age. Oft times, we have disobeyed your commandments, violated your covenant with us, and forsaken your ways. At times, we have denied our need for you and mistreated those whom you have called us to love. Now and then, we have become strangers and aliens, plagued by false values that squeeze life from our souls. Loving parent, hear your penitent children, and let us come home, we pray.

The Assurance of Pardon³

Hear the good news! The grace of God is freely given to us in Christ Jesus, the one through whom we are redeemed and forgiven. Let us set our hope on Christ, living each day to offer 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

Nancy Diepenbrock

The Witness from the Epistles

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

So then, remember that at one time you were Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace! In his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So, he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

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

Thanks be to God!

*The chosen of the Lord shall own God's blessing full and free!
Uplifted by the arms of faith for all the world to see!
For all the world to see!*

*The steadfast truth and love of God outweighs the crush of hate!
The Lord bestows on faithful hearts true joys to celebrate!
True joys to celebrate!*

*The holy court which God ordained brings justice swift and sure!
To those who live beneath the law, God's mercies will endure!
God's mercies will endure!*

*God's covenant forever stands as truth for all to claim!
And generations yet to come will sing God's holy name!
Will sing God's holy name!*

The Witness from the Gospels

MARK 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while!" For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed!

The Gospel for today!
Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

A Step Back!

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. 275

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

*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: Marilyn Preisler

Organist: Linda Ingebritson

Ushers: Susan Krivichi 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
Marilyn Preisler and family in memory of Duane Preisler.***

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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