

# 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.*



*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sixteenth 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 feeding of the multitude, also known as the feeding of the five thousand, is found in all four of the Gospel narratives. This fact alone reveals its primacy in the ongoing story of Jesus, a metaphorical tale emphasizing the priority of the table, a reminder of the Great Banquet Feast reflecting the eternal feast in the realm of God. Whether a factual or historical event, or what might be described as “Christian Midrash”, a metaphorical story pregnant with symbolic meaning, this text is a reminder that we are called to share our provisions with those who are in need. The child in the story shares from a meager lunch that we assume a mother had lovingly prepared, and everyone follows suit, joining in the party, the impromptu celebration representing God's "extravagant welcome" and bounteous goodness, calling us to live the abundant generosity flowing from the blessings we perceive are our gracious gifts from God. When we reciprocate, that is truly a miracle!

### **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

Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God!” The wise, however, seek after the Holy, the knowledge of God manifest in innumerable unlimited ways!

**Our presence here is a testimony to the presence of God in our lives, the Holy One dwelling in our hearts by faith!**

Seek after God as we gather in this sacred time and space! Humbly bow before the One who is found in the company of the righteous!

**We come to this sanctuary to rejoice and be glad in the Lord, filled with the fullness of God, knowing the love of Christ in the depths of our being!**

Let us worship God!

The Introit (insert)

*I Love You, Lord*

Laurie Klein

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of the wise and the foolish, we have gathered in the company of the righteous to worship the One who is our refuge, the Holy One who has delivered us and filled us with the fullness of God; we thank you for the gift of belief and faith that you have graciously instilled within us; as we pray in this sacred setting today, we ask that you would strengthen our inner being with the power of your Holy Spirit; now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than anything we could ask or imagine, to God be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations; 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)

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

\*The Litany of Praise

Let those who believe in the most high God render praise before the Holy One, our praises resounding throughout the heavens and in all the earth!

**Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God!” We shall not be found among them!**

The Holy One looks down from the heavens on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, to learn if there are any who seek after God!

**For many have gone astray and many have failed to call upon the Lord!**

Have they no knowledge? Do they not know that God dwells with the company of the righteous, that God is the refuge of the poor?

**The Holy One will deliver all nations, restoring the fortunes of all people! 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>

The psalmist asserted that all have gone astray, that all are perverse, that there is no one who does good, no, not one. The human creature so often devours people as bread while failing to call upon God, our help and our hope. Before we dismiss these claims as unwarranted exaggeration, let us examine ourselves before God. 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 holy presence, you know the secrets of our hearts. You are aware of our distortions, our jealousies, our lust. You observe our unfaithfulness, our self-centeredness, and our unwarranted fears. There are times when we are corrupted by greed, self-indulgence, and a desire to be entertained. We sometimes miss the signs of your grace and resist the empowerment of your Spirit. Gracious God, still the storms raging within us, forgiving us with your grace.**

### The Assurance of Pardon<sup>3</sup>

Hear the good news! All who truly repent can know the love of Christ that surpasses human knowledge. We are rescued, delivered, and restored to fullness of life in God, our creator. We are being rooted and grounded in love that we, in turn, might show love to others. We are invited to join the saints in realizing ever fuller dimensions of life centered in faith and trust.

**Thanks be to God!**

## The Time for the Children

### The Witness from the Epistles

Joy Turpin

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit of God and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

*The foolish heart denies the Lord and mocks divine decree!  
The harvest of its work is vain, its deeds bring misery!  
From heav'n God looks upon our hearts to measure good and shame!  
The wicked glory in themselves, while we exalt God's name!  
They live their evil days as kings, their scorn brings them to dust!  
And from our shackles God will forge a scepter for the just!*

The Witness from the Gospels

JOHN 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little!" One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down!" Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So, also the fish, as much as they wanted! When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost!" So, they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets! When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!" When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified! But he said to them, "It is I! Do not be afraid!" Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The Gospel for today!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon

*Regifting!*

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)

*My Hope Is Built*

THE SOLID ROCK

\*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: Nancy Diepenbrock

Ushers: Susan Krivichi and Mike Mettler

*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.*

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

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](http://eagleriverucc.org) Church Office: 715-802-8501 E-mail: [office@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:office@eagleriverucc.org)

Timothy W. Shirley: [timwshirley@gmail.com](mailto:timwshirley@gmail.com)



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

July 28, 2024