

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.*



*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Nineteenth 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 early Church faced a huge problem as it got its feet off the ground, looking to find its wings. Firmly and finally split from its forebearers in the faith, a permanent schism ultimately taking place between the followers of the way of Jesus and traditional Judaism, the soon to be called Christians set out on their own. Another obstacle now confronted them, in many ways a harsher impediment, a larger hurdle to overcome, and that was the hostility leveled against them by their Roman occupiers. Christians were persecuted in a variety of horrific manners, terrorized and tortured for their lack of allegiance to the Caesar in power. They were labeled as cannibals, a term that had not yet been coined, as incestuous, and as atheists. We are reminded in their plight, the danger of labels, the damage caused by labeling. Name calling is a form of bullying and is never acceptable because words do hurt, causing immense pain and suffering. And yet, as we all know, are fully aware, labels can be most gratuitous, emboldening and empowering individuals and groups to become all they can be.

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

Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves! Sing and make melody to the Lord with all your hearts, gathering to praise the God of our redemption!

In the company of the upright in the congregation, we come to declare the great works of God, wonderful deeds of grace and mercy extended to all people!

With hearts wide open, give thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of Christ Jesus, the living bread sent from the heavens!

In this sacred setting, grant us the living bread, the bread of life, the wisdom that only comes from above, holy nourishment that grants us life everlasting!

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 15 (*Chalice Praise*) *Great Is the Lord* Deborah D. Smith and Michael W. Smith

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of the sacred covenant, we have gathered in this holiest time and space to praise the God of our redemption, to sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another and to you, the Holy One we worship with all our being, worthy of our best offerings in this sacred setting; may the melody of our voices together bring praise and honor to the One who has been faithful and just, gracious and merciful unto us and has redeemed us in the company of the upright; feed us this day, glorious and majestic God, with the living bread that comes down to us from the heavenly places, wisdom from above, that we might live eternally forever with the Holy One; 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. 66 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO

*The Litany of Praise

In the company of the upright, give thanks to the Lord with all your hearts! In the midst of the congregation, give thanks to God who puts a right spirit within us!

Great are the works of the Lord, deeds full of glory, honor, and majesty, studied by all who delight in them, the righteousness of God enduring forever!

Gracious and merciful is the Lord most high, the One who nourishes the faithful, providing food from above, showing the power of God to the nations!

Ever mindful of the covenant established among all people, the Lord is faithful and just, the works of God trustworthy forever and ever among all people!

Holy and awesome is the majestic name of the One who has redeemed us, filling us with truth! Honest and just is the One who sends redemption to all peoples!

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom! All who are wise are filled with understanding! The praise of God endures forever! Praise the Lord!

*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

There is much that is evil in our world today. There are many good things that are easily perverted. We live in a time when wastefulness masquerades as progress and self-centered willfulness makes false claims to wisdom. We claim the authority of God in making our own authoritarian claims. 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 grace and mercy, we confess that sometimes we have lived comfortably in the abundance of our times and have made things our gods. Oft times, we spend our days dreaming of, and working for, possessions that cannot satisfy. The pursuit of riches replaces the quest for faith and faithful relationships. Redeem us, we pray, when we are self-destructive and restore us to your covenant community.

The Assurance of Pardon³

Hear the good news! We have received a lasting covenantal relationship with God, a covenant established with all humankind. God forgives and redeems the likes of us through Christ Jesus, the living bread, the bread of life, sent from the heavenly places. Accept the gifts God offers all humanity. Accept yourself and know that this moment can mark a new beginning in faithfulness.

Thanks be to God!

The Time for the Children

The Anthem

Ancient Words
Chancel Choir

Nancy Diepenbrock

Lynn DeShazo; arr. John Purifoy

The Witness from the Epistles

EPHESIANS 5:15-20

Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

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

Thanks be to God!

*With our hearts, we praise our maker ever in God's temple sing!
Great and glorious are God's mercies, endless honor shall we bring!
To the Lord let all creation with great adoration ring!*

*God, all gracious and all caring, send your blessings from above!
If in wrath, your arm works vengeance, can your heart with pity move?
May our sins by grace inherit justice tempered with your love!*

*All your laws are sure established, wrought of love and equity!
And the promise of your mercy shall endure all time to be!
Those whose lips sing of your glory evermore your face shall see!*

The Witness from the Gospels

JOHN 6:51-58

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So, Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day, for my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever!”

The Gospel for today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

A Wisdom Unlike Any Other!

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. 595 *Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

*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: Doug Malinsky

Ushers: Mary Lou Congdon 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.

***The flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today are given by
Kelli and Steve Burrill in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary.***

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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