

# 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.*



*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day  
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Seventeenth 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 pseudonymous, think anonymous, writer of Ephesians reminds us of the beauty of human diversity, a reminder that the early Church quickly became wonderfully diverse as Gentiles were invited and hospitably welcomed and included into the mix, joyfully but sometimes challengingly intermingling with their Jewish brothers and sisters. As someone once astutely stated, "It takes a village!" All of us bring to the congregation different gifts and it is each one of those precious offerings that makes the steeple soar. When we pull together, aiming in one direction, we can do great things, becoming all we can be as the people of God in this place, for such a time as this. What a wonderful opportunity is afforded us, a divinely gracious gift granted, as we engage this exciting adventure, traveling this exhilarating spiritual journey together.

### **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 joy and gladness in our hearts, we gather together as one! With willing spirits, we come before the One who feeds us with the bread from heaven!

**Our hearts long to worship the One whose steadfast love endures forever, the One whose abundant mercy is upon us, cleansing us from all our transgressions!**

Create in us clean hearts, faithful God, instilling a new and right spirit within us, restoring to us the joy of our salvation in the One whose gracious love is ever abounding!

**We long for the presence of the One who brings to us the bread of life, the holy food and drink of life everlasting!**

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 99 (*Chalice Praise*)

*Make Me a Servant*

Kelly Willard

## The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of mercy and steadfast love, with joy and gladness we have come into the presence of the Holy One to worship in the unity of our faith; with willing spirits we have gathered in this sacred setting, coming before the One who gives to us bread from above, the very bread of life; fill us this day, faithful God, and create within us clean hearts and a right spirit that we might serve you with all humility and gentleness, leading lives worthy of the calling to which you have called us; 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. 490 *Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant* THE SERVANT SONG

\*The Litany of Praise

The mercy and steadfast love of God is stamped upon the human creation, the imprimatur of the Holy indelibly embedded deep within our spirits!

**God is forever faithful to forgive humanity, blotting out our transgressions and washing us thoroughly from all iniquity, cleansing us from all our sins!**

The Holy One places eternal truth deep within us, teaching us wisdom in the recesses of the secret places of our hearts, permeating every fiber of our being!

**God purges us from every iniquity that diminishes our humanity, cleansing our spirits, washing us as pure as new fallen snow!**

The Holy One has filled us with joy and gladness! Great is our rejoicing, our souls restored with clean hearts and a new and right spirit!

**We are drawn into the presence of the One who restores the joy of the salvation of God on all people, lovingly gracing us with the Spirit of the Divine! 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>

We who are tossed about in a sea of competing images and priorities are summoned before God to be drawn back to a life centered by faith. 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,

**Faithful God, forgive our transgressions. Sometimes, we are prone to sin and have done evil in your sight. Many times, we wander far from your truth. You alone know the extent of our guilt. Oft times we are crushed by the wrong we have allowed and the good we have avoided. Wash us thoroughly and cleanse us deep within. Put a new and right spirit within us, restoring to us the joy of your salvation, forgiving us with your gracious Spirit.**

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

Hear the good news! By the grace of God, we are forgiven. In Christ, we are drawn together and entrusted with gifts for the good of all. We are knit into one body for mutual support, encouragement, and growth. Some of us are apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and some teachers. All of us have a part in building up the body of Christ and equipping the saints for the work of ministry. Give thanks for this wonderful opportunity!

**Thanks be to God!**

## The Time for the Children

Pat Tucker

### The Witness from the Epistles

EPHESIANS 4:1-16

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive! He gave gifts to his people!" (When it says, "He ascended!" What does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

The Response, PSALM 51:1-12

ST. PETER

*Have mercy, Lord, according to the measure of your love!  
Blot out our sin, and from our hearts all wickedness remove!*

*The failings of our deeds and thoughts are ever in our sight!  
Release us from the path of death and set our course aright!*

*Into our secret hearts send truth, let wisdom in us grow!  
O wash the evil from our hands and make us pure as snow!*

*A clean and upright heart, O Lord, exchange for ours of stone!  
Your Holy Spirit meld with ours and leave us not alone!*

*A contrite heart is your desire, our offering, the same!  
Our lips now speak, our mouths engage, your praises to proclaim!*

The Witness from the Gospels

JOHN 6:24-35

So, when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set God’s seal!” Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom God has sent.” So, they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always!” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life! Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty!”

The Gospel for today!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon

*Equipping Some! Equipping All!*

Timothy W. Shirley

The Anthem

*In Remembrance*

Ragan Courtney and Buryl Red

Chancel Choir; Connie Pellmann, flute

The Service of Holy Communion

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. 575 *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

BEACH SPRING

\*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: Barb Helmick

Usher: 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  
Mike and Barb Flaherty in honor of their 44<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.***

<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.

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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