

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.*



*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
One Hundred Years of Faithful Worship . . . and Counting
A Sanctuary Celebration*

The Lord's Day
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
One Hundred Years of Faithful Worship . . . and Counting
A Sanctuary Celebration
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

By September 21, 1924, the finishing touches had been made to this amazing edifice where we now worship in real time, this hallowed, sacred space, this Sanctuary in which we are now privileged to offer our praise and adoration to the Holy. What a joyous day it must have been, the cornerstone having been dutifully placed as a witness to one and all that this building would rest on this spot, safe and secure at the corner of First and Division Streets, a building soaring to the skies in perpetuity. Interestingly, eighty-four years later another celebratory service of thanksgiving and dedication would be held on the same date, September 21, 2008, to honor the renovation of this beautiful Sanctuary.

Once upon a time the Gospel of Mark tells us that a conversation presumably took place between Jesus and the disciples with the rabbi asking these closest followers about his identity, a question regarding who they thought he was. In another version of the Gospel, after Peter provides the correct answer about Jesus being the Christ, the Messiah, Jesus declares in Matthew 16:18 that upon this rock he will build the Church. Today, we celebrate this local rock, this rock of ages, a building of mortar and stone made with human hands to the glory of God! One hundred years and counting!

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

From the streets and city squares, from the busy corners of our lives, gather to listen for wisdom amidst all the people assembled together in this sacred space!

Sophia cries out to us from the highest heavens, subtly speaking to us from the silence and stillness of a vast creation!

Come and declare the knowledge of God in this sacred setting, proclaiming the glory of God throughout the whole earth!

In these holiest moments, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer!

Let us worship God!

The Introit *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* words Augustus M. Toplady; music, Thomas Hastings
Tom Bergman, tenor

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

Great wisdom of the universe, you cry out in the street, in the city square, and from the busiest corner; Sophia God, we have heard your call to us and have gathered to worship you, to render praise to the One whose glory is revealed in the highest heavens and throughout all creation; we have assembled together as one, unified as a great congregation, to celebrate the creation of this sacred space, this holy Sanctuary, built with greatest care to your glory one hundred years ago; we long to be sated from your table, to call upon you from the scattered places of our lives; glorious God, in this our devoted worship as we offer our praise to you, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer; 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. 27 *Come, Thou Almighty King* ITALIAN HYMN

*The Litany of Praise

The heavens are telling the glory of God, the firmament proclaiming the handiwork of the Holy One!

Each day speaks of the wonderful works of our creator, each night declaring the knowledge of God!

No words are spoken, no voice is heard, even as a sacred sound of deafening silence echoes through all the earth!

The law of the Lord is perfect and every decree sure, each one reviving the soul, making wise the simple!

The precepts of God are right, the commandments clear, each one of them gladly rejoicing the heart, enlightening the eyes of the beholder!

God is the source of all wisdom, Sophia more desired than fine gold, sweeter than honey from the comb, the wisdom from above enduring forever and ever! 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 Service of Dedication (insert)

fr. Sunday, February 8, 1925

The Anthem

Cantate Domino

Giuseppe Pitoni; arr. Norman Greyson

Treble Choir; Connie Pellmann, director

The Call to Confession¹

People of God, the scriptures remind us that we are accountable to our creator. Instead, in our times of panic, we often put God on trial, wondering why we cannot find the help we seek. Shutting our eyes and ears to God sometimes becomes a habit we cannot break in times of desperation. That is why, together, as beloved faith community, we come to God, asking to be cleared of secret faults and to detect the error of our ways. Together, we are able to ask and receive the forgiveness of God, allowing the word of God to reach our stubborn hearts. In the sacred silence and stillness of our moments together, let us confess before the Holy.

The Silent Confession

The Corporate Confession²

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of all worlds, we confess that sometimes we let our arrogance get the best of us. It is tempting to turn away from the knowledge you offer and the relationship with us that you desire. On occasion, Sophia, great God of mysterious wonder and wisdom, our tongues reveal our ignorance before the vastness of your truth. We long for the forgiveness and peace that only you can offer.

The Assurance of Pardon³

Beloved faith community, hear the good news! Words of confession by themselves are probably not enough to break the patterns of complacency and self-justification that separate us from God and from one another. Thankfully, our creator knows our honest intent. If we truly turn from our insolent, undisciplined ways, a new way is becoming clear for us and God welcomes us as partners in the gospel, forgiving us as a new creation!

Thanks be to God!

The Time for the Children

Bruce Kaitchuck and Pat Tucker

The Witness from the Epistles

PROVERBS 1:20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street! In the squares she raises her voice! At the busiest corner she cries out! At the entrance of the city gates she speaks: “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof! I will pour out my thoughts to you! I will make my words known to you! Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity. I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them. But those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease without dread of disaster.”

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

Thanks be to God!

The Response, PSALM 19

KINGSFOLD

*The heav'ns unfold your glory, Lord, in ev'ry realm of space!
The outmost bounds of all that is resound your wondrous grace!
Succeeding days to day confess, and nights to night record
in words, beyond our sense to hear, the greatness of the Lord!*

*The earth's imagined cornerstones acclaim with joy their source!
Who sets the gleaming stars ablaze and gives the sun its course!
In ev'ry place within the sphere your craft is ever found!
Majestic mountains, seas, and skies with ordered might resound!*

*Your word is sure and perfect still, a source of light and life!
Your law is right and reason-filled, your peace, the end of strife!
Your everlasting truth and love can scarce be fully told!
More sweet than honey from the comb, more precious yet than gold!*

*God knows the secrets of our hearts but deigns to love us here!
Preserved from pride and self-conceit, we meet God without fear!
May all the words our tongues shall speak, and all our thoughts in store
find grace with you, redeemer, rock, now and for evermore!*

The Witness from the Gospels

MARK 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist! And others, Elijah! And still others, one of the prophets!” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter

answered him, "You are the Messiah!" And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things!" He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me! For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels!"

The Gospel for today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon	<i>On This Rock!</i>	Timothy W. Shirley
The Hymn, No. 709	<i>Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken</i>	AUSTRIAN HYMN
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. 272 *The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

*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: Marty Rosenthal

Concerns of the Church: Joy Turpin

Ushers: Miriam Chenault and Mary Lou Congdon

Organist: Linda Ingebritson

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 cornerstone at the west entryway of this sacred edifice is a reminder of the year signaling the completion of the building that houses this Sanctuary. Records indicate that on September 21, 1924, the first worship service was held in the newly minted facility. The services of dedication celebrating the raising of this sacred space were held from Sunday, February 8th through Thursday, February 12, 1925. The hymns, Treble Choir anthem, and solo selection chosen for our celebration today were taken from the music selections chosen for those services. The "Act of Dedication" is the dedicatory litany invoked during the Sunday, eleven o'clock in the morning worship service held on February 12, 1925.

The flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today are placed in honor of the dedication of the building that houses the Sanctuary.

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.

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.

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

September 15, 2024