

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.*



*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
A Celebration of World Communion*

*The Lord's Day
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
A Celebration of World Communion
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

Once again, we gather with Christians from all around the world to feast at this table that serves as an Altar. If but for a few fleeting moments this day, we are reminded that in these simplest Eucharistic elements of bread and wine that we are one, a common bond that unites the Church, catholic, apostolic, universal. As we celebrate *World Communion*, we seek to live our lives as faithful children of a loving, gracious, hospitably welcoming and inclusive, a most generous God always inviting us to the realm of the Great Banquet Feast of eternal proportions. In the Witness from the Gospels in Mark today we are reminded that we are to have the faith of a child, though we are confident that does not mean a childlike faith!

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 midst of the great congregation, give praise to God as we present ourselves before the Lord, blessing our God of majesty and steadfast love!

We gather around this table that serves as an altar in this sacred space, singing songs of thanksgiving, telling of the wonderful works of the Holy One!

As God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways, truly in diverse manners, we long for the voice of the Holy in our midst!

Come before God, the One who makes us blameless and upright, bringing glory and honor to the One who is faithful, blessing us with a steadfast love!

Let us worship God!

The Introit (insert)

Bind Us Together

Bob Gillman

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of majesty and steadfast love, we have gathered in the midst of the great congregation around your sacred world-wide table this day; we long to praise you, to sing songs of thanksgiving to our God, longing to hear a word from the Holy, even as you long ago spoke to our ancestors in many and varied ways; as we gather in this house that we love so dearly, around this sacred table that serves as an altar, on this day we celebrate World Communion with millions around the globe; make us blameless and upright before you as we offer our gifts of worship; we long to walk with integrity, blessing you even as you bless 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. 420

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

*The Litany of Praise

The faithful love of God is in front of us, all around us, surrounding us, guiding us in truth, God vindicating all who walk with integrity, our faith never wavering!

The Holy One proves us, trying and testing our minds, examining our hearts, that we might faithfully walk before God, always trusting in the Holy!

We refuse to sit among the wicked, nor consort with hypocrites, hating the company of evildoers, but desire the steadfast love of God appearing before our very eyes!

We long to gather around the table, this altar of God, singing songs of thanksgiving and telling of all the wonderful deeds of God!

Oh Lord, we love the house in which you dwell, the place where your glory abides, the place where your grace is known to us!

We seek to walk blameless before God, redeemed as children of the Holy, our feet standing on level and holy ground, blessing you in the great congregation! 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

At our best, we seek to be upright and blameless, people of integrity who live with unwavering trust in God. We aspire to live as brothers and sisters of Christ Jesus, faithful and responsive to our creator. But, in truth, we forget God in our hectic busyness, often turning away from the way of love in our relationships with others. There is much for us to confess. 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,

All-seeing God, there are times we would like to wash our hands in innocence, but we cannot escape from the guilt we carry. We often compare ourselves favorably with people we label worthless or hypocrites, but that very judgement breaks our faith with you. We humbly seek forgiveness as little children in need of your redeeming and welcoming love.

The Assurance of Pardon³

Beloved faith community, hear the good news! When we come as children, acknowledging our dependence on God for life and all that sustains it, we recognize that loving arms surround us, and that holy hands of blessing rest on our lives. We are sisters and brothers of Christ Jesus who is not ashamed to claim us and to walk with us through life. Rejoice that God tests our hearts and minds and helps us grow.

Thanks be to God!

The Anthem *Children of the Heavenly Father* Carolina Sandell Bergt; arr. Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir

The Time for the Children

Joy Turpin

The Witness from the Epistles

JOB 1:1, 2:1-10

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and the accuser also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to the accuser, "Where have you come from?" The accuser answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to the accuser, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." Then the accuser answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that the man has he will give for his life! But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone

and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face!” The Lord said to the accuser, “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life!” So, the accuser went out from the presence of the Lord and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself and sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God and die!” But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak! Shall we receive good from God and not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips!

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

Thanks be to God!

The Response, PSALM 26

GERMANY

*Be now our judge, O Lord, our God, for we have walked among the just!
With confidence, we shall not fall, for always you have been our trust!*

*Test us, O Lord, before your sight! The secrets of our hearts reveal!
And for the wrongs which blind our cause, to your great mercy, we appeal!*

*We flee from empty boasts of pride, and shun the dismal haunts of woe!
Their evil threats, our paths would spurn! Your truth, our light, where'er we go!*

*Our God, we love your holy house, where justice clothed in love resides!
The lure of earth cannot corrupt the soul which in your grace abides!*

The Witness from the Gospels

MARK 10:2-16

Some, testing him, asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her!” But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female!’ For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate!” Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery!” People were bringing children to him in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me! Do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the realm of God belongs! Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the realm of God as a little child will never enter it!” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them!

The Gospel for today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Like a Child!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Hymn, No. 422

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

The Service of Holy Communion

*Individually wrapped gluten-free bread is
available in the center bowl of each bread plate.*

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. 431 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* AR HYD Y NOS

*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: Barbara Helmick

Ushers: Miriam Chenault and Susan Krivichi

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.

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Christine Clough, Cleaning Service



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 Email: office@eagleriverucc.org

Timothy W. Shirley: timwshirley@gmail.com



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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