



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Our Hope in the Wilderness”

March 29, 2020

5th Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. Virtual Service

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship
and relevant messages deepen spirituality
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

Our Church's Mission Statement

Chad Frost, Preacher

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor

Jeannette Len, Office Administrator

Sue Sackett, Custodian

Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Nicole Finney, Child Care

Judy Nielsen, Organist

Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director

Brandon Frost, Choir Director

Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist

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• 517-627-2336 • office@grandledgeucc.org

Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text,
and an asterisk (*) indicates to please stand, as you are able.*

*Our hymns are not announced, but are printed in the bulletin,
so feel free to locate them ahead of time. Helpful worship notes and information on the church
can be found in the brochure by the hymnals.*

*Guests and visitors – a special welcome! Please fill out a “Welcome” card (in the pew pocket)
and put it in the offering plate so we may send you a small gift.*

GREETING

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beloved ones, we live in a time of turmoil, but God is in our midst.

Many: God is always here, in our homes, in the hospitals, in our grocery stores and pharmacies; God is here.

One: God calls you to lay your burdens down and enter into this time of worship.

Many: For this time, we lay down our fears, our anger, our disappointments.

One: God's peace is like a mild, warm breeze; it surrounds you, warms you, comforts you.

Many: May God's peace enter our minds, hearts, and spirits.

One: God's love is like a soft blanket; it is cozy, warm, and safe.

Many: May God's love wrap around us; may we snuggle down into it.

One: God sees you, hears you, and knows you. God loves you and will guide you through this wilderness.

Many: Thanks be to God!

*OPENING HYMN #553

(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

*COLLECT PRAYER

(Adaptation of The Serenity Prayer)

One: Please join me in prayer.

**Many: God, grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
and the Wisdom to know the difference.**

**Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This world as it is,**

**Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“On Eagle’s Wings”

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:1-6 NRSV (pg. 791)

GOSPEL READING

1 John 4:18-19 NRSV (pg. 1112)

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

Many: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE #283

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

SERMON

“Our Hope in the Wilderness”

Chad Frost

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Smile”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

*Please send your offering in through the mail OR talk to Lynn Hart about starting automatic deductions:
hartacre3@aol.com*

*DOXOLOGY/SONG OF PRAISE

OLD 100TH

*DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: Beloved God, we know that all the gifts we have come from you. Take our gifts then, we pray, and let them go to the service of others, that all may have what they need, especially at times such as these. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #438

“When Peace, Like a River”

(if you are able please rise as we sing the closing hymn boldly together)

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful” (sung twice)

**In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful
In the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

“What Brings Us Together”

Worship Resources for this Sunday:

- Unless otherwise listed all hymns and responses come from the New Century Hymnal
-

Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43

African-American spiritual; alt.

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

Last time, end

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
 2 Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend,
 3 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,

to Refrain

But then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.
 who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev-er fail to lend.
 you can tell the love of Je-sus, who died to save us all.

Ezekiel 37:1-6**(NRSV)**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath[a] to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath[b] in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

1 John 4:18-19**(NRSV)**

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

When Peace, Like a River

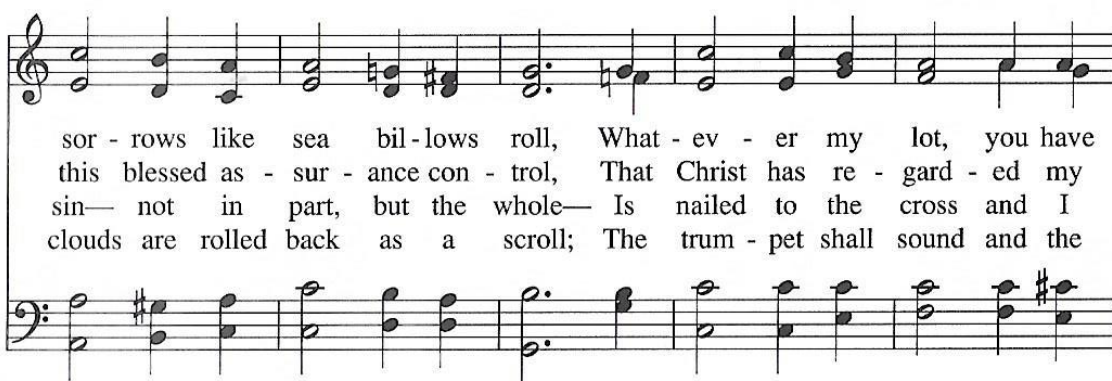
(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

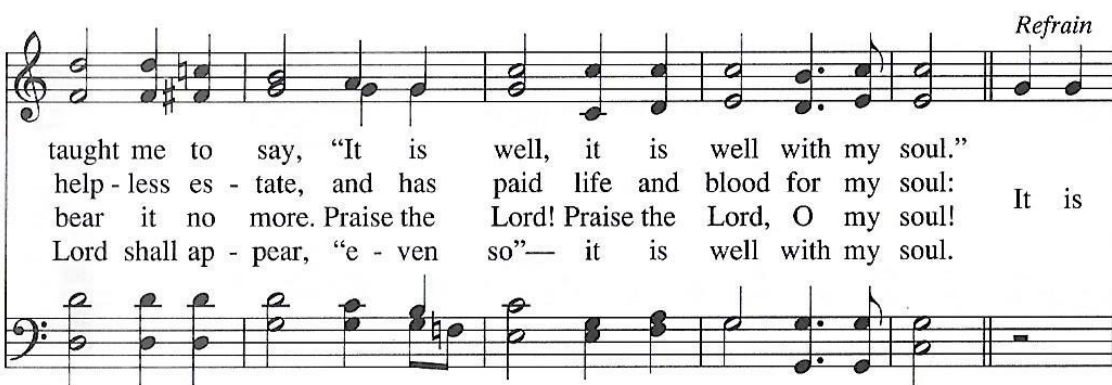
Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.



1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought—my
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

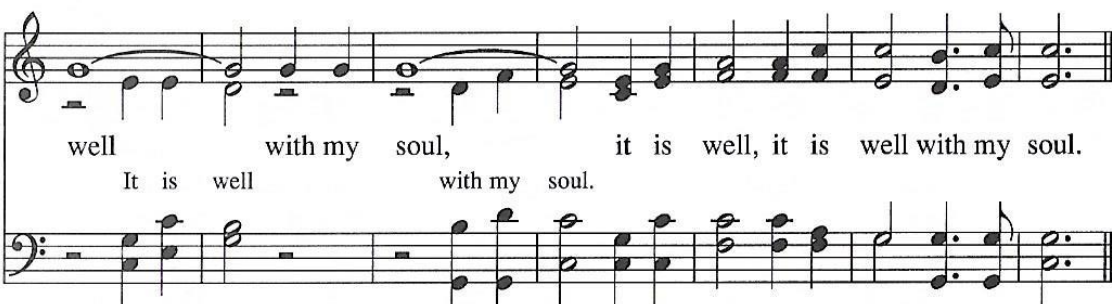


sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the



Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.



well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

