



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Now What?”
April 19, 2020
2nd Sunday of Easter
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

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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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. Guests and visitors – a special welcome!*

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, Christ has defeated death, taking away its sting!

Many: But we wonder what that means for us now, in this time of disease and uncertainty.

One: One thing that it means is that if we lose anyone to this virus or to any other injury or ailment, death is not the end. You and your loved ones are redeemed and have eternal life!

Many: But we wonder what it means for those of us who are suffering from loss, grief, loss of income, illness and fear.

One: One thing Christ's resurrection means is that God is always with you, loving you, supporting you, comforting you all the time. You can know and trust that God is with you.

Many: But we wonder what it means for those of us who are separated from our loved ones.

One: One thing it means is that nothing, nothing at all can separate you from the love of God or the love of your loved ones. Like the disciples and friends of Jesus who thought they had been separated from Jesus, you will find that Jesus is among you. Your friends and family are with you in spirit, even if they are far away.

Many: But we wonder what it means for those of us who are feeling trapped in our homes, unable to go where we want to go.

One: One thing that Christ's triumph means is that you are free. Though your face may be covered in a mask, and your bodies may be confined to a bed, or a chair, to a room or a house, to one residence or a tent, your soul is free! So, let yourself rejoice in the freedom you do have.

Many: But we wonder how? How do we do that, worried, afraid, and frustrated as we are?

One: Do what you can, one little thing at a time, and rejoice that you can do those things! And if you can dance, dance in praise to our God! If you can see, watch the dances of others with joy! If you can sing, sing in praise to our God! And if you can listen, listen with joy to the song's others sing! And if you can pray through word or just through feelings, lift up your prayers to our God!

Many: We dance and sing! We watch and listen! And we lift up our prayers to our God! Amen!

*OPENING HYMN #17
(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing”

*COLLECT PRAYER
(Adaptation of Psalm 16)

One: Please join me in prayer.

**Many: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to my God, “You are my God;
I have no good apart from you.”**

**Our God is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
My life has fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.**

**I bless our God who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
I keep our God always before me;
because They are at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

**Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

**You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**And so, I give thanks to our beloved God,
From whom all good things come. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Katie Miller-Purrenhage Flute

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

SUNG BLESSING #325

“Child of Blessing”

**Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God’s you are, from God you came.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
Live as one who bears Christ’s name.**

GOSPEL READING

John 20: 19-29 (insert)

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE #236

“Hallelujah”

**Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Introduction

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Prayers of Concern

(After each prayer is stated or read, please say the following)

One: We lift our prayers up to God.

Many: God, hear our prayer.

Prayers of Gratitude and Thanksgiving

(After each prayer is stated or read, please say the following)

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: Hallelujah, Amen!

THE LORD’S PRAYER

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

Please give what you can, by mail or through prayers.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com

*DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: Beloved God, we know that all the gifts we have come from you. Take these our gifts, 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 #476

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

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

*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

“Happy Trails...Until We Meet Again”

Worship Resources for this Sunday:

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

Musicians: Katie Miller-Purrenhage, flute
 John Paul Miller-Purrenhage, vocals
Liturgist: Emily Miller-Purrenhage
Liturgist: John Miller-Purrenhage

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

4 To you, God, day af-ter day, earth in

Unison

1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery -
 2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a-cross the
 3 Your flow-ing wa - ters, crys-tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to
 4 To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery

ev-ery way sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! As fruit, fra - grant

(Harmony) *(Unison)*

thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en
 sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a
 hear, sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti - ful and
 way, sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra-grant

flower show forth glo - ry and power, sing - ing prais - es, al-le -

(Harmony)

beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais-es,
 song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais-es, al-le -
 bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais-es,
 flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais-es,

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

(Unison)

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

5 Now we who are of ten-der heart,
 for-giv-ing oth-ers, take our part,
 sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!
 To you we lift our pain and care,
 re-ceive the bur-dens that we bear,
 sing-ing prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

6 In you, a kind and gen-tle death
 pre-pares to hush our fi-nal breath,
 sing-ing prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!
 Christ goes be-fore us to re-new
 the way that leads us home to you.
 Hear our prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

John 20:19-29

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear..., Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw him. Again, Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit...

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So, the other disciples told him, 'We have seen Jesus!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'

Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'

Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?
 Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?