



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 26, 2020
3rd 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

Karen Holcomb-Merrill, 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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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: Christ is Risen!

Many: He is risen, indeed!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based on Psalm 116)

One: I love my God, because God has heard my voice and my supplications.

Many: Because God inclined Their ear to me, therefore I will call on My God as long as I live.

One: The snares of death encompassed me; the fear of disease laid hold on me; the frustration of separation weighed me down; the sadness of loss overwhelmed me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Many: Then I called on the name of my God: “O God, I pray, save my life! Comfort the afflicted! Give companionship to the lonely! Grant hope to the fearful! Give peace to the dying!”

One: Gracious is our God, and righteous; our God is merciful.

Many: For God has delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, our feet from stumbling.

One: Precious in the sight of our God is the death of all God’s beloved, and God grants them peace.

Many: What shall I return to my God for all this bounty to me?

One: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of my God,

Many: I will pay my vows to my God in the presence of all his people.

One: O God, I am your servant; I will offer to you great thanksgiving and call on the name of my God.

Many: Praise our God!

*OPENING HYMN #237

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

“I Come to the Garden Alone”

*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 part of the 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

“Any Dream Will Do”

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:17-23 NRSV (pg. 1104)

GOSPEL READING

Genesis 28:10-19a NRSV (pg. 24)

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!**

REFLECTION

Karen Holcomb-Merrill

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“These Things Shall Pass”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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, accept the gifts we offer, and bless them to the fulfillment of our calling. 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. May it be so. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN #539

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

(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

Karen Holcomb-Merrill - Reflection
Brandon Frost - Choir Director
Chuck Byam - Choir Accompanist
Tony Arient - Liturgist

I Come to the Garden Alone

(In the Garden)

*John 20:14-18**C. Austin Miles, 1912*

1 I come to the gar-den a - lone, while the dew is still on the
 2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their
 3 I'd stay in the gar-den with him, though the night a-round me be

ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing on my ear, the
 sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy that he gave to me with -
 fall - ing; But he bids me go; through the voice of woe his

Refrain

Son of God dis - clos - es.
 in my heart is ring - ing. And he walks with me, and he
 voice to me is call - ing.

talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, And the

joy we share as we tar - ry there, none oth-er has ev-er known.

C. Austin Miles wrote this hymn and its music to tell the story of Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus at the tomb, when she recognizes him and calls him "Rabboni" ("Teacher").

Tune: GARDEN 8.9.5.5.7, with refrain
C. Austin Miles, 1912

1 Peter 1:17-23**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Genesis 28:10-19**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

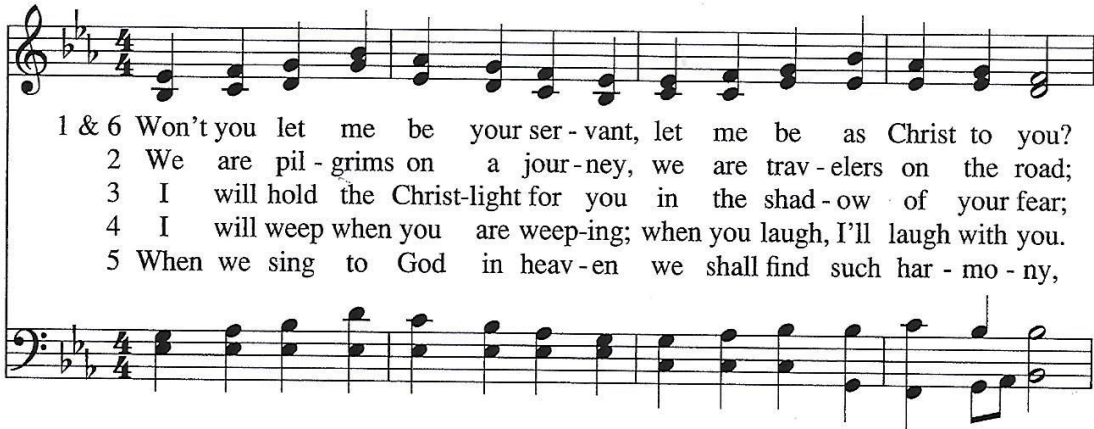
¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

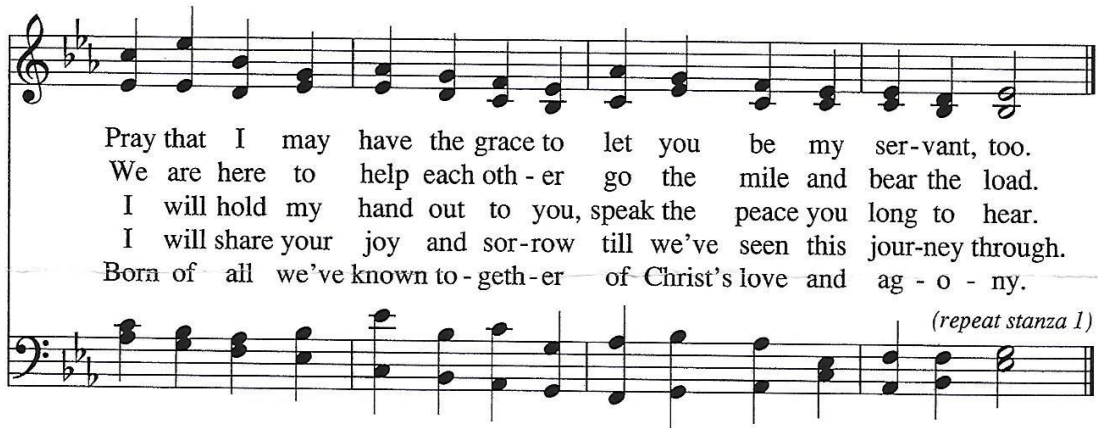
539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)