



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Important Questions”
9th Sunday After Pentecost
August 2, 2020
10:30 a.m. Zoom 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

Guest Speakers, Chief Thomas Osterholzer and Jon Horford

Jeannette Len, Office Administrator

Nicole Finney, Child Care

Sue Sackett, Custodian

Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

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. Our hymns are not announced, but are printed in the bulletin, so feel free to locate them ahead of time.*

GREETING

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

Many: And also with you.

INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Micah 6:8)

One: With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Many: What does the Lord require of me?

One: Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Many: What does the Lord require of me?

One: Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Many: What does the Lord require of me?

One: God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Many: Thanks be to God!

*OPENING HYMN #73

“Enter, Rejoice and Come In”

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 NRSV (pg. 569)

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

“Important Questions: A Dialogue about Race and Racism”

Chief Thomas Osterholzer and Jon Horford

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Anyone Can Move a Mountain

(Johnny Marks, 1996, CCLI #2091058)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING MOMENT

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

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

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

One: Please join me in the Call to Confession.

Many: Holy God, we often find that fighting against racism is hard. We want so desperately to do what's right, to treat everyone with love and respect, but we know that we don't always do this. We confess that we sometimes make discussions about race and racism about us, instead of about the people racism hurts the most. We confess that we don't listen enough or act often enough when we see or hear racism happening around us. We confess that we are part of system that needs to be changed, but that we don't do enough to make that change happen. So, we ask for your forgiveness, oh God. And we ask that you help us to be the people that we long to be, truly living out our faith and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Beloved ones, the good news is that God knows our hearts and knows that we want to do better. So, God sent Jesus to offer us a path towards righteousness--a path that will help us to fix our mistakes--and to offer us salvation and grace. So, know that you are forgiven and loved. Accept that forgiveness and, in your thanksgiving, go out and make a difference in the world.

Many: Thanks be to God.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to you, O Lord.
Blessed is the one who comes,
Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

(1549 Book of Common Prayer, music by John Merbecke, 1550, CCLI #2091058)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: We thank you, God, for inviting us to, and nurturing us at, this table. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and lead us to continue to humbly and lovingly seek justice; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (insert)

“Go Make a Difference”

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

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

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.

(Les Presses de Taizé, words © 1986, 1991, CCLI #2091058)

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

**Please join us for a Zoom coffee hour after the service. Grab a coffee or your favorite beverage and a snack and join the Zoom call using the link sent in the email with this bulletin (or in the link sent through the Thursday Pause).*

SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgists – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage and Troy Arient

Homily – Chief Thomas Osterholzer and Jon Horford

Virtual Coordinator – Chad Frost

Musician – Chuck Byam

Choir Director—Brandon Frost

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.
 2 O - pen your-self to the song. O - pen your-self to the song.
 3 O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one.
 4 Don't be a - fraid of some change. Don't be a - fraid of some change.
 5 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C F Em7 A7 Dm7sus4 Dm7 G7 C

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joice, and come in.

(Louise Ruspini, 1996, CCLI #2091058)

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

NRSV

145:8 God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

145:9 God is good to all, and her compassion is over all that she has made.

145:14 God upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

145:15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

145:16 You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

145:17 God is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.

145:18 God is near to all who call on them, to all who call on them in truth.

145:19 She fulfills the desire of all who fear her; she also hears their cry, and saves them.

145:20 God watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

145:21 My mouth will speak the praise of our God, and all flesh will bless their holy name forever and ever.

Go Make a Difference

Refrain

Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.

Verse 1

We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a difference in the world.

Verse 2

We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world.

Verse 3

So, let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make a difference in the world.

(Words and Music: Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek, 1997 Copyright © 1997, CCLI #2091058)