



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“It’s Time to Sow”
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
July 12, 2020
10:30 a.m. Facebook Live 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
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

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • grandledgeucc.org

• 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 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

(Based on Psalm 65)

One: We praise you, O God, the Master Gardener, and Creator of all!

Many: O you who answer prayer! To you all creation shall come.

One: By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Many: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

One: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

Many: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

One: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

Many: For the beauty of the earth, for the rich soil, for the seed time and the harvest, we give you thanks, oh God! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #237

“I Come to the Garden Alone”

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

*COLLECT PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: God, the first Farmer and Gardener, we pray that you guide us as we sow good words and good works in your name. Lay the plow of righteousness in our hands and guide our feet toward fertile ground. Let us be transformed into cultivators of the soul. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM "Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow" Deborah Govenor

FRESH PERSPECTIVES Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 55:10-13 NRSV (pg. 672)

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 13: 1-9 & 18-23 NRSV (pg. 889)

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.

HOMILY "It's Time to Sow"
Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

MUSICAL REFLECTION "Silver Lining" Jerome Kern

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

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

*CLOSING HYMN #181 (verses 1, 3, 4) "You Are Salt for the Earth, Oh People"
(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 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.

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE "Happy Trails... Until We Meet Again"

**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).*

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

SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist - Troy Arient

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Fresh Perspective - Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Chad Frost

Music Coordinator – Brandon Frost

Organist – Chuck Byam

HEALTH CONCERNS

Please follow these links for accurate and up to date information regarding the Coronavirus.

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_99557---,00.html

*Resources found on this website are for individuals experiencing mental and emotional health challenges during this time. Many of these resources are free.

<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

<https://www.barryeatonhealth.org/covid-19-resources-and-update>

https://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_churches_establish_protocols_preach_awareness_not_panic_as_covid_19_cases_grow_03102020

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.

Isaiah 55:10-13**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Matthew 13:1-9**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

Matthew 13:18-23**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Verses 1, 3, 4

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Matt. 5:13-15

Unison
D (allow to ring off)

1 You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!

Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!
 Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God!
 Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God!
 Love our journey and love our home-land: love is the City of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
 Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!