



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Sparking Resilience”
8th Sunday After Pentecost
July 26, 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

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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

(Please join us at home by speaking the text in bold font)

One: We are called together from near and far to praise God!

Many: But honestly, God, we're getting a little tired of social distancing, of isolation, and of not meeting in person.

One: Holy Spirit, fill us with comfort and joy this and every day.

Many: We need a little joy every day.

One: Blessed Jesus, strengthen and encourage us, this and every day.

Many: We need a lot of strength and a little encouragement every day.

One: Beloved Creator, fill us with gratitude for all of the good things we have in this life.

Many: We need to feel gratitude for the good things, to help us get through these tough times.

One: And so, we offer you thanks and praise, Oh God, for all of the ways that you appear in our lives.

Many: Thanks be to God!

*OPENING HYMN #28

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

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

*COLLECT PRAYER

(Please join us from home in saying the Collect Prayer)

One: Let us pray.

Many: Holy Spirit, who breathes life and hope throughout the world, we ask that we may hear you stir the air around us. Let us smell the new cut grass and flowering roses. Let us feel the warm breath of the sun. Let us see the "helicopter" seeds spinning down from the trees and taste the freshness of summer on the air. And so, restore our weary souls so that we may be reinvigorated for the next step in our journey. In the name of Jesus, who always walks alongside us, Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

"United in Christ"

(words by Nancy Price and Don Besig / music by Don Besig)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 105:1-6 NRSV (pg. 544)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 8:26-39 NRSV (1030)

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

“Sparkling Resilience”

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

(words by William Walford / music by William Bradbury)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

(Since our services are posted publicly on Facebook, we ask that you either leave people unnamed in your prayer requests [ex: prayers for a friend who is in his last stages of life] or that you obtain permission from anyone you wish to name in prayer.)

OFFERING MOMENT

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

Checks can be sent to First Congregational UCC

210 West Saginaw

Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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

*CLOSING HYMN *(from Hymnary.org, insert)*

“Lord of the Dance”

(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
- Lord of the Dance – Hymnary.org (composer Gary Allan Smith, Sydney Carter)

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

For the Beauty of the Earth

*St. 1-3, Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.**St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Psalm 105:1-6

O give thanks to our God, call on Their name, make known Their deeds among the peoples.

Sing to Them, sing praises to Them; tell of all Their wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek our God rejoice.

Seek our God and Their strength; seek Their presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done, God's miracles, and the judgments They have uttered,

O offspring of God's servant Abraham, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

Romans 8:26-27 & 31-39

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God...

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² God, who did not withhold God's own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will that God not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord of the Dance

Unison G Em Bm Em

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar-i-see, but they
 3. I danced on the sab-bath when I cured the lame, the
 4. I danced on a Fri-day and the sky turned black; it's
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,

Am D7

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 would not dance and they would not fol-low me; I
 ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame; they
 hard to dance with the dev-il on your back; they
 I am the life that -'ll nev-er, nev-er die; I'll

G Em Bm Em

came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish-er-men, for James and John; they
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they
 bur-ied my bod-y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me;

Am D7 C G Refrain G Bm

Beth-le-hem I had my birth.
 came to me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher-
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Em G

ev-er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Am D G C G D7

Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher-ev-er you may

G C D7 G C

be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.