



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Living Our Faith”
12th Sunday After Pentecost
August 23, 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.*

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

One: Today, let us make a space in our homes and in our hearts to worship God.

Many: We are here in our homes and apartments, on our porches and in our yards, in cabins, hotels, hospitals, and shelters. We are here to worship God!

One: On this day, we give thanks for the women in our lives who have been our rocks—for the Cis and Transgender women, and for all people who have identified as women at some point in their lives.

Many: We remember and give thanks for our mothers and grandmothers, our sisters and aunts, our daughters, nieces, and friends.

One: We remember and give thanks for the women of the Bible who lived into their calling to serve God, working to change the world.

Many: For Miriam, who helped lead her people out of Egypt; Deborah, who served as a righteous and true judge; for Dorcas who tirelessly worked with the poor; for Phoebe, one of the first leaders in the Christian church.

One: We remember and give thanks for the women who have come before us, who devoted their lives to the search for equality.

Many: For all of the suffragettes, especially Susan B. Anthony and Sojourner Truth, Fusae Ichikawa of Japan, Sarojini Naidu of India, and Funmilayo Ransome Kuti of Nigeria.

One: We remember and give thanks for all the women who love and protect us and who seek to make the world a better place.

Many: For the unnamed and named, especially for Tarana Burke, founder of the Me-Too Movement; Greta Thurnburg, young climate activist; Alicia Garza, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, and Michelle Obama, lawyer, community servant and advocate.

One: And for you, oh God, Mother and Sister of us all, we give you thanks.

Many: Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #524

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

“This Little Light of Mine”

COLLECT PRAYER

(Borrowed with permission from Rev. Elsa A. Cook, Copyright 2020 Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100)

One: Please join me in prayer.

**Many: Holy One, we tell your story today as a conspiracy of hearts;
The defiant midwives, the laboring women, the daughter of power
and the daughter of poverty join forces to protect the children of Israel
and so, set the stage for liberation.
Meet us here today and show us the gifts we have
to offer in the service of your kin-dom--
resilience, clear-sightedness, courage, compassion—
setting the stage for a Just World for All.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Peace Like a River”

(arranged by Moore #7116825, CCLI #3091058, #20709045)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 1:8-2:10 NRSV (pg. 48)

GOSPEL LESSON

Isaiah 51:1-6 NRSV (pg. 667)

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.

(Daniel Iverson, 1935, CCLI #2091058, #20709045)

HOMILY

“Living Our Faith”

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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 #403

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

(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.**

(Les Presses de Taizé, words © 1986, 1991, CCLI #3091058, #20709045)

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”
(Public Domain, CCLI #3091058, #20709045)

**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, CCLI #3091058, #20709045
- Here are a few resources to learn more about women’s movements and female leaders:
 - If you can get access to the New York Times, they have been running wonderful stories on the suffrage movement.
 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/7/compilation-inspirational-black-women-to-know>
 - <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/811050365/hindsight-looking-back-at-100-years-of-women-s-suffrage>

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

This Little Light/This Joy I Have

1 This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 1 This . . . joy I have, the world did-n't give to me.

I am gon - na let it, let it shine,
 oh, the world did not give to me,

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 This joy . . . I have, the world did-n't give to me.

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,
 This . . . joy I have, the world did - n't give to me.

Hal - le - lu - jah,
 Hal - le - lu, the

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, (oh let it shine.)
 No, the world did-n't give it, the world can't take it a - way.

“This Little Light” continued:

- 2 Ev-ery-where I go . . .
- 3 All--through the night . . .

“This Joy I Have” continued:

- 2 This love I have . . .
- 3 This hope I have . . .
- 4 This faith I have . . .
- 5 This peace I have . . .

Exodus 1:8-2:10**New Revised Standard Version**

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to

(continued)

bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” ⁸Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So, the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So, the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

Isaiah 51:1-6

New Revised Standard Version

51 Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:11; Heb. 6:19; Rev. 11:15

Edward Mote, c. 1834; alt.

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
 2 When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
 3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
 4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in

righ - teous - ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
 chang - ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
 Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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