



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“God Loves Your Bad Attitude”

18th Sunday After Pentecost

October 4, 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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• 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.*

MOMENT FOR CENTERING

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

The Psalms teach us that lament is a powerful form of prayer, where we share in collective grief and lift that collective grief up to God. The biblical form of lament begins with grief, but then moves towards praise and trust that God will bring about healing and change. It is in this spirit of lament that this Call to Worship is written.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Psalm 13 NRSV)

One: How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

Many: How long will you hide your face from me?

One: How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

Many: How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

One: Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Many: Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

One: But I trust in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

Many: I will sing to the Lord because he has dealt bountifully with me.

OPENING HYMN #553

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

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

COLLECT PRAYER

One: Please join me in prayer.

Many: God of justice and healing, we come to you with anxious hearts, hurting and worried for the troubles of our country. We ask that you gather us together in spirit, that our collective grief might lead us to action so that your just peace may finally be on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

"He Leadeth Me"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 17:1-7 NRSV (pg. 63)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Thea Oatman

HOMILY

“God Loves Your Bad Attitude”

Thea Oatman

MUSICAL REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.
If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com*

CLOSING HYMN #438

“When Peace Like a River”

(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

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus - Adaptation”
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr)

****Please join us for a social distanced fellowship time at 1pm behind the church. Bring a chair, mask, and a drink. We will provide individually wrapped snacks, extra masks, and hand sanitizer.***

CREDITS

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- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** – Adaptation
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr)

SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist - Troy Arient

Homily – Thea Oatman

Fresh Perspective – Thea Oatman

Virtual Coordinator – Chad Frost

Music Coordinator – Brandon Frost

Organist – Chuck Byam

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- For information regarding the UCC's response to the wildfires in the west, see:
 - https://www.ucc.org/news_west_coast_fire_evacuations_take_toll_on_ucc_churches_camps_and_their_communities_09162020
 - https://www.ucc.org/2020_wildfires
 - If you're struggling to find hope amidst all of the troubles of our world right now, one source that maybe be helpful is this: <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/>

553

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43

African-American spiritual; alt.

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

Last time, end

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,
 3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

to Refrain

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev - er fail to lend.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

Water from the Rock

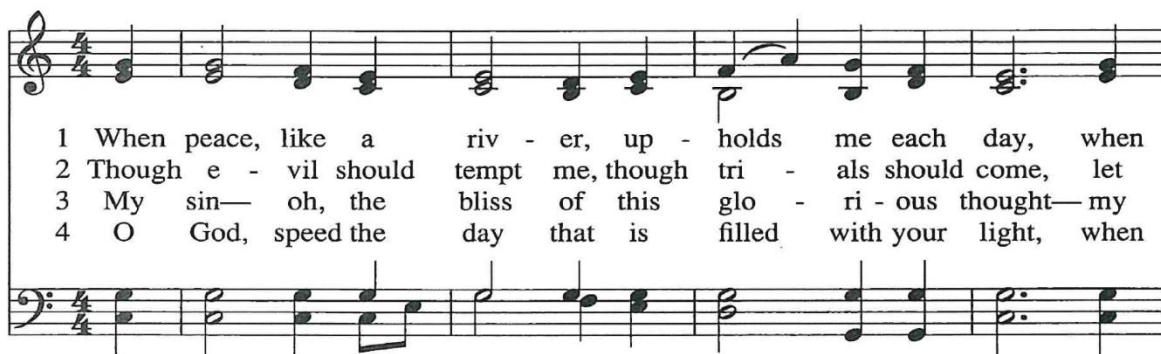
17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

When Peace, Like a River

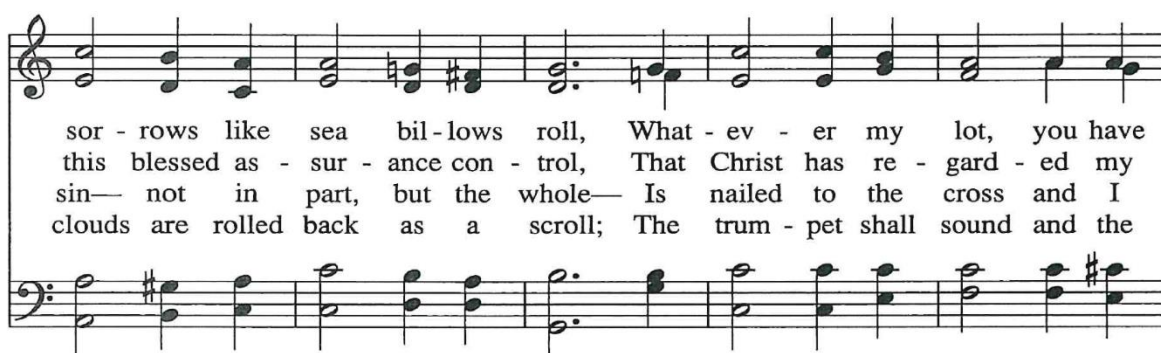
(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19–23; 2:13–14; 3 John 1:2

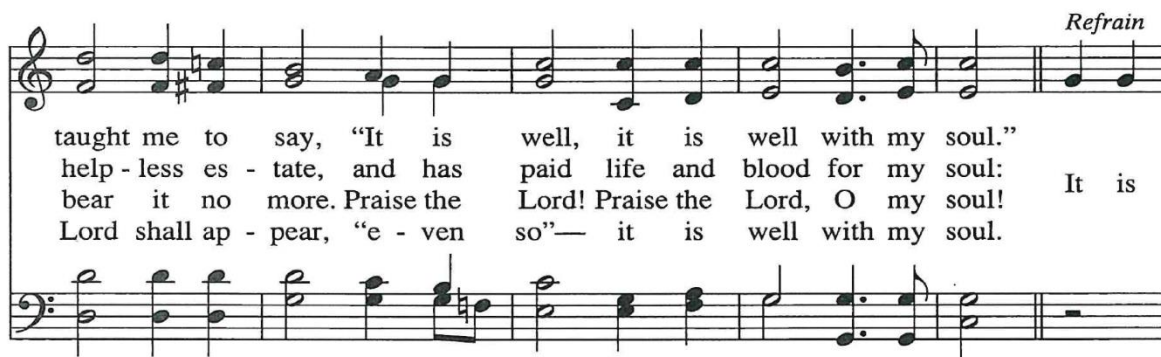
Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.



1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought—my
4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.



well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul.