



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Rest, Restore and Renew”  
14th Sunday After Pentecost  
September 6, 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.*

### 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

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come onto the holy ground of your homes, your yards, your cabins, your rooms.

**Many: We trust that God is here.**

One: Wiggle your bare feet in your socks, or on the carpet, the hard wood, the linoleum, the grass.

**Many: We trust the firmness of the ground on which we stand.**

One: Breathe in deeply, the air that surrounds you.

**Many: We trust that we can breathe in God's healing presence.**

One: Close your eyes for a moment, and let your hearts be filled with love.

**Many: We trust that God will renew and restore us today.**

One: You are in the presence of God.

**Many: Hallelujah! Amen.**

#### OPENING HYMN #472

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

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

#### COLLECT PRAYER

One: Please join me in prayer.

**Many: Blessed God of grace, fill our souls with peace today, that we may end this worship refreshed and renewed. Amen.**

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### ANTHEM

“Think of Me”

#### FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 23 KJV (insert)

#### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 17:24-28 NRSV (pg. 1010)

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

**Many: Thanks be to 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

“Rest, Restore and Renew”  
Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

MUSICAL REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(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](mailto: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: When we sin or make mistakes, our relationships with one another and with God becomes damaged. Whatever we've done bothers us deep inside and can fester. Confession allows us to lay down these burdens, to apologize, and make amends. It is the first step in committing to making a change in our lives to do something different, and the first step towards reconciliation. This Sunday, you are invited to offer your own confession to God. You may do so silently, or you may speak your prayer out loud.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

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, to reconcile with one another and with God. But the good news is also this: ultimately salvation is given to you by God out of love and grace. So, know that you are forgiven and loved.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

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!**

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, renew our hearts,  
bodies, and minds, that we may return to the world, refreshed and better  
able to serve you, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN #249

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

“Peace I Leave with You, My Friend”

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

MOMENT OF BEAUTY

POSTLUDE

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

*\*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.
- **Precious Lord, Take My Hand**  
*(Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932, © 1968 Shawnee Press, Inc., CCLI #2091058, #20709045)*
- **Spirit of the Living God**  
*(Daniel Iverson, 1926, © 1995 Pilgrim Press, CCLI #3091058, #20709045)*
- **Peace I Leave with You, My Friend**  
*(Ray Repp, 1967, © 1994 Pilgrim Press, CCLI #3091058, #20709045)*
- **Think of Me**  
*(Robert W. Thygerson, 1982, © 1997 Triune Music, Inc., CCLI #3091058, #20709045)*
- **Sanctus**  
*(1549 Book of Common Prayer, music by John Merbecke, 1550, Public Domain, #128558, CCLI #2091058)*
- **Spirit of the Living God**  
*(Daniel Iverson, 1935, © 1963 Capitol CMG Publishing, CCLI #2091058, #20709045)*
- **In the Lord I Will be Ever Thankful**  
*(Les Presses de Taizé, words 1986, © 1991 GIA Publications, CCLI #3091058, #20709045)*
- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** - Adaptation  
*(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr)*

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## **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

# Precious Lord, Take My Hand

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Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
when my life is al - most gone,  
and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:  
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

*Refrain*

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

## **Psalm 23**

## **King James Version (KJV)**

**23** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## **Acts 17:24-28**

## **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor<sup>[a]</sup> he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God<sup>[b]</sup> and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

## Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

*Refrain*

Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in



all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to



you so you can give to oth - ers, too.



1 To share God's love is why I came,  
2 Take my hand and be at peace;  
3 With this love now all will know



to show God's kind - ness with - out end.  
the spir - it of our love I send.  
that lone - li - ness is at an end.



Go now, my friends, and do the same,  
And with this love you will be free,  
Re-joice, my friends, al - though I go,



un-til I come a - gain.  
un-til I come a - gain.  
for I will come a - gain.