



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Practicing Resilience”**

**Reign of Christ**

**November 22, 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  
Marcia Esper, 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  
Rev. Ruth Fitzgerald, Preacher

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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

*(Adapted with permission from Rev. Ruth Garwood, Copyright 2020 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ)*

One: Know that the Holy One is God.

**Many: We are God's people.**

One: Worship the Holy One with all of your being.

**Many: We come into God's presence with singing.**

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.

**Many: We lift our praises to God.**

One: For God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

**Many: Let us worship with thanks and joy! Let us praise God in song and word and prayer!**

### OPENING HYMN # 8 (verses 1,2,4)

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

"Praise to the Living God"

### GATHERING PRAYER

*(Used with permission from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, copyright © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts)*

One: Please join me in prayer:

**Many: You raised up your Son, O God, and seated him at your right hand  
as the shepherd who seeks what is lost,  
binds up what is wounded,  
and strengthens what is weak.  
Empowered by the Spirit,  
grant that we may share with others  
that which we have received from your hand,  
to the honor of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Hymn of Thanksgiving”

Judy Nielsen

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 14:10-31 NRSV (page 541)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 5:6-11 NRSV page 904)

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

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE #478 (verse 3)

“Peace Like a River”

**I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.**

HOMILY

“Practicing Resilience”

*(Rev. Ruth Fitzgerald)*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Judy Nielsen

THANKSGIVING VIDEO

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](mailto:hartacre3@aol.com)*

CLOSING HYMN # 32 (verses 1,3,5,6)

"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

*(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)*



## CREDITS

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

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## SUNDAY ROSTER

**Liturgist** - Troy Arient

**Fresh Perspective** – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

**Homily** – Rev. Ruth Fitzgerald

**Virtual Coordinator** – Chad Frost

**Music Coordinator** – Brandon Frost

**Organist** – Judy Nielsen

**Pianist** - Chuck Byam

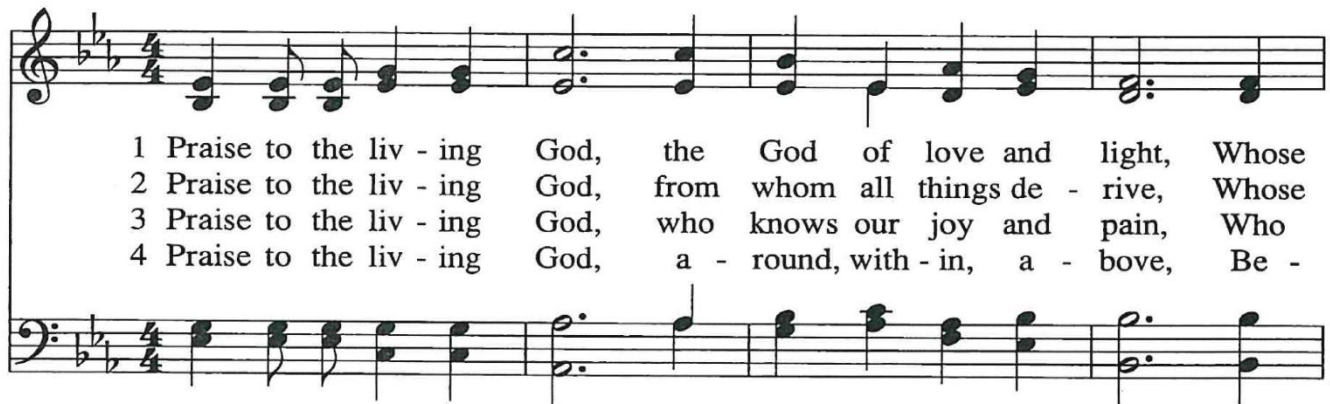
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- For information regarding the UCC's response to the wildfires in the west, see:
  - [https://www.ucc.org/news\\_west\\_coast\\_fire\\_evacuations\\_take\\_toll\\_on\\_ucc\\_churches\\_camps\\_and\\_their\\_communities\\_09162020](https://www.ucc.org/news_west_coast_fire_evacuations_take_toll_on_ucc_churches_camps_and_their_communities_09162020)
  - [https://www.ucc.org/2020\\_wildfires](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/>

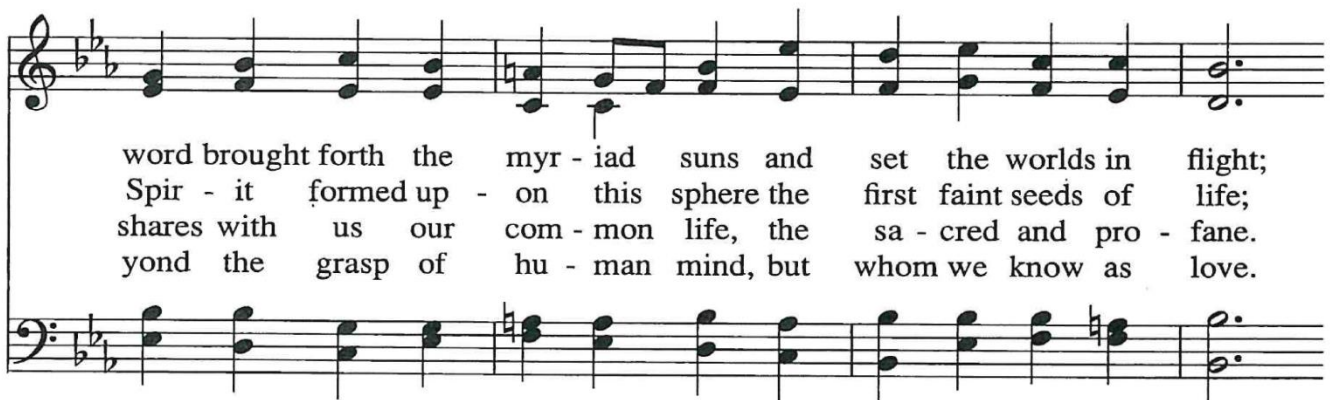
## Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

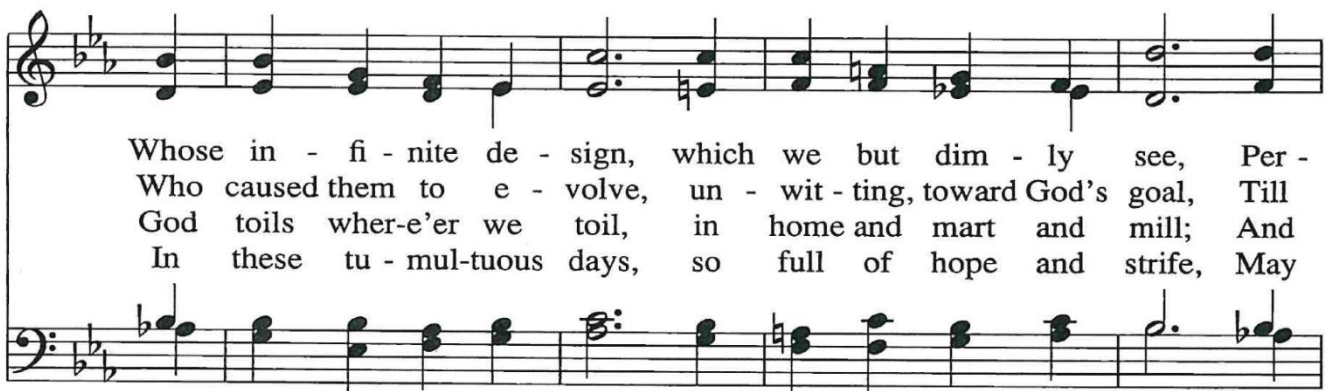
Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.



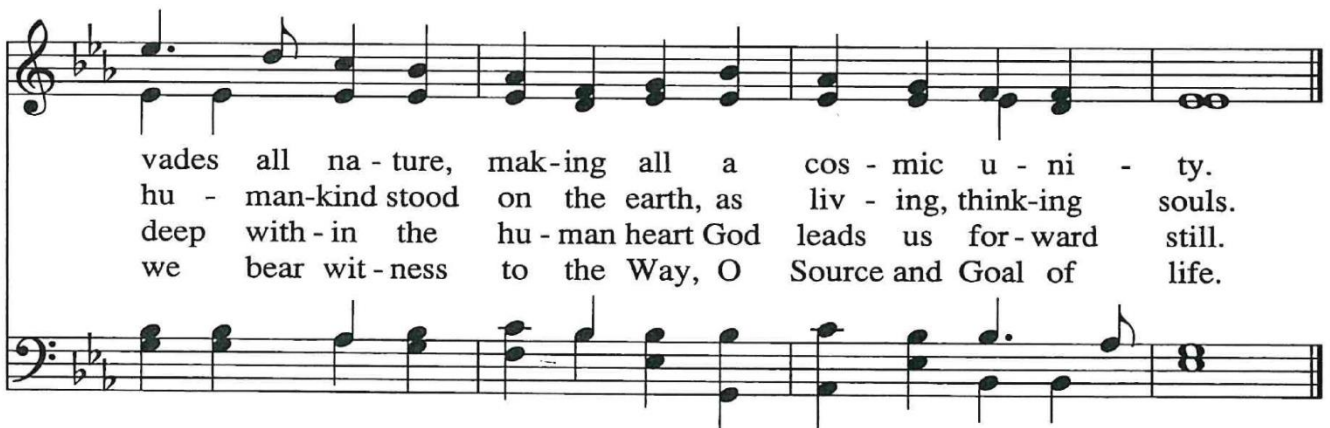
1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose  
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose  
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who  
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;  
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;  
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.  
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -  
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till  
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And  
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May



vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.  
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.  
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.  
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

**Exodus 14:10-31****New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>10</sup> As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup> They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." <sup>13</sup> But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." <sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. <sup>16</sup> But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup> Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. <sup>18</sup> And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers." <sup>19</sup> The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup> It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. <sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup> The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup> At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup> He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

**The Pursuers Drowned**

<sup>26</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup> The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup> But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup> Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup> Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

**1 Peter 5:6-11****New Revised Standard Version**

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that God may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist evil, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your siblings in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To God be the power forever and ever. Amen.



# God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

1 Thess. 5: 18; Ps. 136

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

(Introduction) G G7 Unison C Em Am Dm

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale  
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry  
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say

FM7 Em7 Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G 6 C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise  
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save  
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks  
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life  
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace  
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.