



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Tikkun Olam”
22nd Sunday After Pentecost
November 8, 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
Anita Calcagno, 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

INTROIT

“Savior, Source of Every Blessing”

W. A. Mozart

(Judy Nielsen)

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Adapted with permission from Rev. Susan A. Blain, Copyright 2020)

One: Call Upon God’s Wisdom

Many: She will answer.

One: Seek God’s Wisdom.

Many: She dwells in the midst of life.

One: Follow God’s Wisdom.

Many: She leads in the paths of light and generosity.

One: Keep alert for the call of God’s Wisdom.

Many: She leads and we are ready to respond with justice and joy!

OPENING HYMN #454

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

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

COLLECT PRAYER

(By Ken Untener, Bishop of Saginaw)

One: Please join me in this responsive prayer: It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

Many: We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

One: No statement says all that should be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the church’s mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

**Many: This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
Knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produced effects far beyond our capabilities.**

One: We cannot do everything,
And there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
A step along the way,
An opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

**Many: We may never see the end results,
But that is the difference
Between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders,
Ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future that is not our own. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Trust in Him”
(Judy Nielsen)

Franz Schubert

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20 NRSV

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:1-13 NRSV (pg.903)

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE #478 (*verse 1*)

“Peace Like a River”

**I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.**

HOMILY

“Tikkun Olam”
Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“My Heart Ever Faithful”
Judy Nielsen

J. S. Bach

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

Today is Stewardship Sunday. Please give what you can of your time, talents, and money. You can mail your pledge to the church or drop them off today after worship. Stewardship Team Members and Pastor Laura will be at the back of the church to collect and consecrate your pledges. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com

DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: Beloved God, accept the gifts we offer, and bless them to the fulfillment of our calling. 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. May it be so. Amen

CLOSING HYMN #448

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

“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

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)

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

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

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African-American spiritual

Deut. 6:5-6; 10:12-16

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Refrain

In my heart, in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart,
In my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Wisdom of Solomon 6 12-20**New Revised Standard Version**

6:12 Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. 6:13 She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. 6:14 One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. 6:15 To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, 6:16 because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought. 6:17 The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction, and concern for instruction is love of her, 6:18 and love of her is the keeping of her laws, and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality, 6:19 and immortality brings one near to God; 6:20 so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

Matthew 25:1-13**New Revised Standard Version**

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

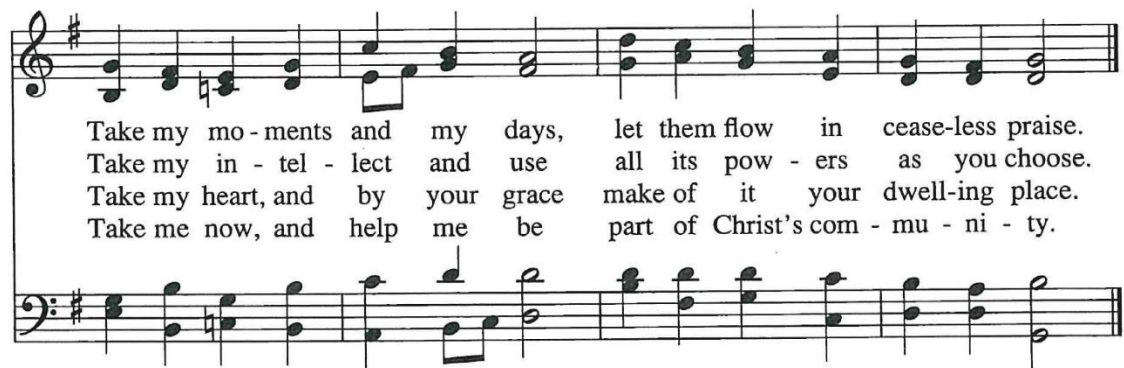
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Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1



1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.