



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“The Sacraments”
1st Sunday after Epiphany
January 10, 2021
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
Angela Spialek, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our God of grace calls us to renew our covenant with God and one another.

Many: We love our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

One: Let us proclaim our promise.

Many: We promise to love, forgive, and accept our neighbors, even when it's hard, even when we don't want to, even when the ones we try to love don't love us in return.

One: Let us proclaim our grace.

Many: We promise to love, forgive and accept ourselves, even when it's hard, even when we don't feel worthy, and especially when others don't think we are worthy.

One: This is the beginning and the core of our belief.

Many: God, let this covenant guide us to good and just actions so that all of your people may live fulfilling and reasonably contented lives.

One: Amen.

OPENING HYMN #160 "Jesus, the Light of the World (Hark the Herald Angels Sing)"
(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

GATHERING PRAYER

One: Please join me in prayer:

Many: O God of the waters, God of the bread and the wine, who sustains us with your never-ending love, fill our hearts with the hope and joy of your promises. As we worship together today, grant us the courage and empathy that we need to help make your Kin-dom come on this earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

"Away in a Manger/Santo, Santo, Santo"
(La Muna and Antonio Moreno)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5 NRSV (pg. 1)

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:4-11 NRSV (pg. 910)

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE # 163

“Amen”

**Amen, Amen, Amen,
Amen, Amen x2**

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

INTRODUCTION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we hear your voice and we see the way of Jesus set before us. But it's hard, dear God, to try again and again to live up to our baptismal vows and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world. It's simpler to focus on our own lives, and to do what's easy, instead of what's right. And it's easy to become defensive and angry when we're asked to face our own failings or when asked to help others that we haven't been helping, to love others that we haven't been loving. In repentance we ask you to forgive us. Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF LOVE AND GRACE

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

One: Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism?

Many: I do.

One: Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?

Many: I do.

One: Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

Many: I do.

One: Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

Many: I do.

One: Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

Many: I do.

One: In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

One: Please join me in prayer:
**O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received.
We thank you that you claim us,
that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us,
that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling.
In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world.
Establish us to be places of refreshment.
Root us and nurture us in love,
that with all your people, that we may rightly and justly serve you.
Fill us with your fullness
that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.**

MUSICAL REFLECTION “When You Come to the End of the Day”
(Chuck Byam)

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*

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.

COMMUNION PRAYER

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 BLESSING AND LORD’S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: God, we thank you for inviting us to, and nurturing us at, this table. We ask that you bless us in our covenantal calling of seeking justice, walking humbly, and showing radical hospitality and grace to others. We ask that you help us use the gifts that we have been given not for conquest and dominance, but for liberating the poor, the marginalized, and the hurting people, who pray for our liberation as well as their own. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #161vs1-3

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

“Amen, Amen”

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.**

POSTLUDE

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus - Adaptation”
(Chuck Byam)

Please join us for a short fellowship time on Zoom at 12 noon.

CREDITS

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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Troy Arient

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Chad Frost

Music Coordinator – Brandon Frost

Pianist – Chuck Byam

Organist – Judy Nielsen

- 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/>

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;

Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

Refrain

We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the
 dew-drops of mer-cy are bright, Shine all a-round us by
 day and by night, Je-sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 George D. Elderkin
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

Amen, Amen

161

African-American spiritual

Mark 3:7-10; Luke 2:7, 46-47; Rom. 6:6-10

Congregation/choir

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men,

Solo

1 O see the lit - tle ba - by ly - ing in a man - ger
 2 See Je - sus in the tem - ple talk - ing to the el - ders;
 3 See Je - sus at the sea - shore preach - ing to the peo - ple,
 4 See Je - sus on the cross bear - ing all my sins
 5 Yes, Je - sus died to save us, rose on Eas - ter morn - ing,
 6 We're sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is my Sav - ior,

(Congregation/choir)

a - men! A - men,

on Christ - mas morn - ing. (2 See)
 how they all mar - veled! (3 See)
 — heal - ing all the sick ones! (4 See)
 in bit - ter ag - o - ny! (5 Yes,)
 and lives for - ev - er! (6 We're)
 who lives for - ev - er!

a - men, a - men, a - men, a - men!

This is one of the many spirituals that found fame during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Its pattern of

Tune: AMEN Irr.
African-American spiritual

Genesis 1:1-5**New Revised Standard Version**

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Mark 1:4-11**New Revised Standard Version**

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”