



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“The Devil Made Me Do It”  
4th Sunday after Epiphany  
January 31, 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***

Leah Horn, Preacher

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: Come join us in worship today!

**Many: We join you from our homes, from hospitals and rehab facilities.**

One: Come join us in lifting our voices to God.

**Many: We lift up our losses and grief, our frustrations, our thanksgiving and joys!**

One: Come join us in hearing the word of God.

**Many: We hear it as the Holy Spirit moves through scripture, through sermons, through the windy snows of nature, and through the still small voice inside each of us.**

One: Come join us in acting upon the word of God.

**Many: We are ready to be sent back into the world after this service, refreshed, renewed, and reinvigorated to follow our calling.**

One: We rejoice to worship together!

**Many: Amen!**

#### OPENING HYMN #179

“We Yearn, O Christ, For Wholeness”

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

#### GATHERING PRAYER

One: Please join me in prayer:

**Many: Perfect Light of revelation, as you shone in the life of Jesus, whose epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.**

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### ANTHEM

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*(Rob Leveridge)*

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Leah Horn

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 11 NRSV (pg. 484)

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:21-28 NRSV (pg. 910)

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

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE # 129

“Amen, Amen”

**Amen, Amen,  
Amen, Amen, Amen.**

HOMILY

“The Devil Made Me Do It”  
*(Leah Horn)*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Adagio”  
*(Judy Nielsen)*

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)*

CLOSING HYMN #25 vs 1, 3, 6

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

*(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.**

POSTLUDE

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

Please join us for a Zoom Fellowship Time at 12:00

## CREDITS

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- **Amen, Amen**  
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- **In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful**  
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- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** - Adaptation  
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr.)
- **We Yearn for Christ's Wholeness**  
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- **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**  
(#84028, One License, Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent.; Verses 1, 3-6, para. in Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; Verses 2, 7 tr. fr. The Hymnal 1940, alt. Music: Chant, Mode I; Processionale, French, 15th cent.; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890. Contributors: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL)
- **Adagio**  
(#59847, One License, © 2006 Hope Publishing Company, Contributors: Hal H. Hopson, arr.)
- **Our God, Our Help in Ages Past**  
(#592e04d3a4fcf, One License, Contributors: Isaac Watts, William Croft, Unknown Traditional Tune: Music: William Croft, 1678-1727. Text: Text: Ps 90, adapted by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748.)

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### SUNDAY ROSTER

**Liturgist** – Troy Arient

**Fresh Perspective** – Leah Horn

**Homily** – Leah Horn

**Virtual Coordinator** – Chad Frost

**Music Coordinator** – Brandon Frost

**Pianist** – Chuck Byam

**Organist** – Judy Nielsen

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## We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

179

*Dosia Carlson, 1986; rev. 1993*

1 We yearn, O Christ, for whole - ness and for your heal - ing touch;  
 2 We long to have com - pan - ions who trav - el by our side,  
 3 We need your liv - ing pres - ence, O Christ of Gal - i - lee,

too long have we felt help - less; our bur - dens seemed too much.  
 strong friends to call and an - swer with whom we are al - lied;  
 a pres - ence that re - vives us and sets our spir - its free.

For - get - ting all pre - tens - es we make our plead - ings heard,  
 As we lift up each oth - er when strug - gles lay us low,  
 No long - er are we fear - ful, your love per - vades each place.

in hope and ex - pec - ta - tion a - wait your gra - cious Word.  
 com - mu - ni - ty de - vel - ops; our faith and car - ing grow.  
 Em - pow - er us with cour - age to claim your heal - ing grace.

*Dosia Carlson is noted for her ministry at Beatitudes United Church of Christ in Phoenix, Arizona, and for her hymnwriting. This text was inspired by a sermon given by Harold Wilke during the International Year of Persons with Disabilities (1983).*

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.  
 Hans Leo Hassler, 1601  
 Harm. J. S. Bach, 1719  
 For another harmonization, see 202

# O God, Our Help in Ages Past

25

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream  
fades at the o-pen-ing day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while trou-bles last,  
and our e-ter-nal home!

*Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.*

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.  
William Croft, 1708

## **Psalm 11 (pg. 484)**

<sup>1</sup>In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to me,  
“Flee like a bird to the mountains;

<sup>2</sup>for look, the wicked bend the bow,  
they have fitted their arrow to the string,  
to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart.

<sup>3</sup>If the foundations are destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?”

<sup>4</sup>The LORD is in his holy temple;  
the LORD’s throne is in heaven.  
His eyes behold, his gaze examines humankind.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked,  
and his soul hates the lover of violence.

<sup>6</sup>On the wicked he will rain coals of fire and sulfur;  
a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is righteous;  
he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright shall behold his face.

## **Mark 1:21-28 (pg. 910)**

<sup>21</sup>They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.