



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Witness to Wonders”  
Transfiguration Sunday  
February 14, 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

#### BELLS/CHIMES

#### INTROIT

“Thy Love Enfold Us”

*(Judy Nielsen)*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Gathering in our sacred spaces and in this sacred space on-line we anticipate new wonders each week.

**Many: Wherever two or three are gathered to worship, the Holy Spirit is present.**

One: Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed, even this day, even in this place.

**Many: We will want to linger online and camp in our sanctuaries, but when we leave today may our hearts be open to all the wonders of God’s beautiful world.**

#### OPENING HYMN #1 vs 1,2 4

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

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

#### GATHERING PRAYER

One: Please join me in prayer:

**Many: O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love. Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory of the divine presence. With each encounter we are changed and transformed. Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit. Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory. May we walk among our siblings and friends as a blessing, bearing light into dark places, hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate. Our world is hurting and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely. Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying, ... “listen to my Child, the Beloved!” Amen.**

#### ANTHEM

“We Are One, Lord”

*(Brandon Frost and Chuck Byam)*

#### FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Kings 2:1-12 NRSV (pg. 328)

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 9:2-9 NRSV (pg. 919)

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

“Witness to Wonders”  
*(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*(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](mailto:hartacre3@aol.com)*

CLOSING HYMN #181

“You Are Salt For the Earth, Oh People”

*(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)*

There will not be a Zoom Fellowship Time today

## CREDITS

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- **Amen, Amen**  
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- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** - Adaptation  
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr.)
- **Thy Love Enfold Us**  
(#89126, *One License, Contributors: Edith Sinclair Downing, Text: © 2011, Wayne Leupold Editions*)
- **Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**  
(#84444, *One License, Text: 11 11 11 11; 1 Timothy 1:17; Walter C. Smith, 1824-1908, alt. Music: Roberts' Canaidau y Cyssegr, 1839. Contributors: ST. DENIO, Walter Smith*)
- **We Are One, Lord**  
(#31535, *One License, Contributors: Stan Pethel, Text: © 1985, Hope Publishing Company*)
- **All You Need Is Love** - Adaptation  
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr.)
- **You Are Salt for the Earth, Oh People**  
(#03185, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc., Contributors: Marty Haugen)

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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

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# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;  
4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;  
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;  
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,  
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,  
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.  
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.  
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.  
Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

## You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

D (allow to ring off)

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!  
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!  
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!  
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!  
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!  
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!  
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

*Refrain*

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain  
 Marty Haugen, 1986

## **2 Kings 2:1-12 NRSV**

**2** Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup> The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

<sup>4</sup> Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup> The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup> He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup> As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup> Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

## **Mark 9:2-9**

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.