



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**March 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

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)

• 517-627-2336 • [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)

## 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

“One Sweetly Solemn Thought”

*(Judy Nielsen)*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beloved in Christ, why have you come to worship this morning?

**Many: We come to celebrate the love of God in the form of Jesus Christ.**

One: This love reaches through the shadows of our lives to embrace us. Our challenge is to trust the light of God’s love in the midst of our struggles.

**Many: We come to celebrate the light of God in Jesus who offers love and acceptance, not judgment and rejection.**

One: If only we will trust, Jesus leads us in the way of light and love.

**Many: We come to celebrate our God who loved and loves us so much!**

#### OPENING HYMN #286

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

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

#### GATHERING PRAYER

One: O God of Comfort and God of Challenge, we come to you this morning the way the Israelites did, full of complaints and dissatisfaction. Nothing is enough; we do not recognize your blessing at work in our day to day lives.

**Many: Forgive us. In our complaints, challenge us as you did the Israelites, to consider the bigger picture of oppression, injustice, and inequality around us. Forgive us when we close our eyes for fear of what you might show us; Lift up loving and compassionate leaders to open our eyes until we see what you see in our world.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### ANTHEM

“What Brings Us Together”

*(Brandon Frost & Chuck Byam)*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 22: 21-27 NRSV (pg. 1074)

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 4:16-21 NRSV (pg. 967)

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

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE #173

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

**O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;  
kindly smiling, you’ve called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
now with you I will seek other seas.**

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“It Is No Secret”  
(Chuck Byam)

MOMENT FOR MISSION

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 #581

“Lead Us From Death to Life”

*(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 short fellowship time on Zoom at 12 noon

## CREDITS

- Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 732777-A. All rights reserved and from CCLI, License #2091058, and Streaming License #20709045
- So Loved: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Lent was written by the Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Conference Minister for Missouri Mid-South Conference, UCC. Copyright 2021 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- **You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore**  
(#110320, One License, Contributors: arr. Lynn Trapp)
- **In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful**  
(#00118, One License # 732777-A, Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taize, Tune: ©1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: ©1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc.)
- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** - Adaptation  
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr.)
- **One Sweetly Solemn Thought**  
(#1048302, One License, Contributors: Donald Lee Moore, Robert S Ambrose, Tune: © 1994 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation [Admin. by Music Services])
- **Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness**  
(#44816, One License, Contributors: James K. Manley, Text: © 1978, J. Manley Publishing)
- **What Brings Us Together**  
(#93026, Contributors: Jay Althouse)
- **It Is No Secret**  
(#59407, One License, Contributors: Stuart Hamblen, Text: © 1950, Universal Publishing Group - represented by Hal Leonard Corporation)
- **Lead Us From Death to Life**  
(#00191, One License, World Peace Prayer, © 1985, GIA Publications, Inc., Contributors: Marty Haugen)

---

## SUNDAY ROSTER

**Liturgist** – Troy Arient

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

**Virtual Coordinator** – Chad Frost

**Music Coordinator** – Brandon Frost

**Pianist** – Chuck Byam

**Organist** – Judy Nielsen

## Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Unison, brightly  
Refrain

James K. Manley, 1978; alt.

*D G A Dsus4 D*

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the  
wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,  
Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from  
plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the  
2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the  
3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a  
4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the  
sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a  
hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the  
schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you  
law and a land; When they were con-found - ed by their  
whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you  
cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom-en see vi - sions, our

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -  
i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -  
called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -  
men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

bers and rise on your wings."  
ets to o - pen their eyes.  
ple on the rush of the wind.  
sions your peo-ple a - rise.

## Lead Us from Death to Life



Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -



spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to



love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let



peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.



1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your  
 2 So man - y lone-ly hearts, so man - y bro-ken lives, long-ing for  
 3 Let jus - tice ev - er roll, let mer - cy fill the earth, let us be -



peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus - tice roll, let  
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,  
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,



mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.  
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.  
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

## **Exodus 22: 21-27**

<sup>21</sup> You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. <sup>22</sup> You shall not abuse any widow or orphan. <sup>23</sup> If you do abuse them, when they cry out to me, I will surely heed their cry; <sup>24</sup> my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children orphans.

<sup>25</sup> If you lend money to my people, to the poor among you, you shall not deal with them as a creditor; you shall not exact interest from them. <sup>26</sup> If you take your neighbor's cloak in pawn, you shall restore it before the sun goes down; <sup>27</sup> for it may be your neighbor's only clothing to use as cover; in what else shall that person sleep? And if your neighbor cries out to me, I will listen, for I am compassionate.

## **Luke 4:16-21**

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."