



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“The Trinity: How Did We Get Here?”

Trinity Sunday

May 30, 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

Bil Turner, 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

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • grandledgeucc.org

• 517-627-2336 • 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

“Laudate Dominum”

(Judy Nielsen)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come into this household of the living God, the Three in One. Gather in the wonder of the mystery that God has invited us to share in.

Many: We have come as the family of Christ, led by the Spirit of God.

One: Ascribe to the Divine, glory and strength; ascribe to God, the glory that is due. Worship the Triune God in the Beauty of Holiness.

Many: Our hope is that in this time of worship and learning, we might embrace what lies beyond our imagination and understanding.

OPENING HYMN #28

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

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

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Many: O God of Mystery,
Within your very self you model the beloved community.
You are the Wisdom within our hearts,
The Word who dwells among us,
The Spirit who calls us beyond ourselves.
Let us know your presence here today
In a new way, that we might celebrate your love
and go forth rejoicing with the Prophet Isaiah,
saying: “Here am I. Send me.”.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”

(Brandon Frost and Chuck Byam)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Lisa Reed

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 6:1-8 NRSV (pg. 622)

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-17 NRSV (pg. 968)

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE #286

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

**Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

HOMILY

“The Trinity: How Did We Get Here”
(Bil Turner)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Celebrate America Medley”
(Chuck Byam)

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

*Please give what you can by mail or through prayers.
If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart harta3@aol.com*

CLOSING HYMN #594

“How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies”

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)

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
- Mysterious Encounter: Service Prayers for Trinity Sunday was written by the Rev. Dr. Bertrice Wood, Sagamore Hills, Ohio. ©2021 Faith INFO Ministry Team, 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.
- **Laudate Dominum**
(#23177, One License, Contributors: Earlene Rentz, W A Morart)
- **For the Beauty of the Earth**
(#592e04d2ec7d1, One License, Contributors: Folliot Pierpont, Conrad Kocher, Tune: Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872 Text: Text: Folliot S, Pierpont, 1835-1917)
- **Battle Hymn of the Republic**
(#1146579, One License, Contributors: Mark Hayes, Tune: © 2010 Lorenz Corporation (admin. by Music Services) All Rights Reserved. ASCAP Text: © 2010 Lorenz Corporation (admin. by Music Services) All Rights Reserved. ASCAP)
- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** - Adaptation
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr.)
- **Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness**
(#44816, One License, Contributors: James K. Manley, Text: © 1978, J. Manley Publishing)
- **Celebrate America Medley**
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr.)
- **How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies**
(#83969, One License, Miriam Therese Winter adaptation, Text: CMD; Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929. Music: Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903. Contributors: MATERNA)
- **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.)

SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Troy Arient

Fresh Perspectives – Lisa Reed

Homily – Bil Turner

Virtual Coordinator – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Pianist – Chuck Byam

Organist – Judy Nielsen

For the Beauty of the Earth

*St. 1-3, Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.**St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

Miriam Therese Winter, 1993; Adapted from
 "America the Beautiful" by Katharine Lee Bates, 1893

1 How beau-ti-ful, our spa-cious skies, our am - ber waves of grain;
 2 In - dig - e-nous and im - mi - grant, our daugh-ters and our sons:
 3 How beau-ti-ful, sin - cere la - ment, the wis - dom born of tears,
 4 How beau-ti-ful, two con - ti - nents, and is - lands in the sea

our pur - ple moun-tains as they rise a - bove the fruit - ful plain.
 O may we nev - er rest con-tent till all are tru - ly one.
 the cour-age called for to re - pent the blood-shed through the years.
 that dream of peace, non - vi - o - lence, all peo - ple liv - ing free.

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God's gra-cious gifts a - bound,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God grant that we may be
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God grant that we may be
 A - mer - i - cas! A - mer - i - cas! God grant that we may be

and more and more we're grate-ful for life's boun-ty all a - round.
 a sis - ter - hood and broth - er - hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
 a na - tion blessed with none op-pressed, true land of lib - er - ty.
 a hem - i - sphere where peo - ple here all live in har-mo - ny.

On her first trip west in the summer of 1893 the distinguished New England educator Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to write "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies." One hundred years later Miriam Therese Winter wrote new stanzas to clearly include all of the Americas.

Tune: MATERNA C.M.D.
 Samuel A. Ward, 1882

Isaiah 6:1-8 NRSV

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. **2** Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. **3** And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

4 The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. **5** And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. **7** The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." **8** Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

John 3:1-17 NRSV

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." **3** Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." **4** Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" **5** Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' **8** The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." **9** Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" **10** Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.