



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“I Can Not Come, Reprise”

June 20, 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

Ben Banks, 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

BELLS/CHIMES

INTROIT

"One and All"
(Chuck Byam)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: It's awesome when all of the people live together in unity!

Many: When waters are rough, we hold each other tightly. When the sea begins to swallow us, we hold each other tightly and call on God.

One: But we also need God and each other when there are no looming waves.

Many: We can splash and play in the shallow end and venture into deeper waters with trusted friends. Delighting in refreshing currents of community and savoring each burst of laughter, let's invite others to join in the fun!

OPENING HYMN #410

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

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

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Many: Ever-living God, you are like the sea: Powerful and endless, yet soothing and constant. Let us feel your refreshing presence as we gather near your waters to wade in the possibilities of life that you offer us this day.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Ben Banks

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 1: 1-6 NRSV (pg. 479)

¹ Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

² but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees

planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,

and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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

“I Can Not Come, Reprise”
(Ben Banks)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“God Will Be Exalted”
(Chuck Byam)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE 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 hartacre3@aol.com*

CLOSING HYMN #616

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

“I Want to Be Ready”

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

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- **Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness**
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- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** - Adaptation
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr.)

SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Rich Brown

Fresh Perspective – Ben Banks

Homily – Ben Banks

Virtual Coordinator – Kelly Stuitable-Clark

Music Coordinator – Kelly Stuitable-Clark

Pianist – Chuck Byam

Organist – Chuck Byam

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Georg Neumark, 1641

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

1 If you but trust in God to guide you, with hope-ful heart through
 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's plea - sure in cheer-ful hope, with
 3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv-ing; of - fer your ser - vice

all your ways, you will find strength, with God be - side you,
 heart con - tent, trust-ing that grace which knows no mea - sure
 faith - ful - ly, and trust God's word, though un - de - serv - ing,

to bear the worst of e - vil days; For those who trust God's
 will by un - bound - ed Love be sent; Nor doubt our in - most
 there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to

change-less love build on the rock that will not move.
 wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways near.
 guide and bless those who em - brace God's faith - ful - ness.

The comforting words of Psalm 55:22 inspired this beautiful hymn by Georg Neumark, who wrote both words and music. Neumark was a German poet who suffered much during the Thirty Years' War.

Tune: NEUMARK 9.8.9.8.8.8.
 Georg Neumark, 1657

I Want to Be Ready

616

African-American spiritual

Rev. 21:1-4, 10-27; John 11:1-44; Acts 2:14, 36-41

Refrain

I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y,

Last time, end

I want to be read - y to walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.

Leader *All*

- 1 Oh, John, oh, John, what do you say?
- 2 When Mar - tha spoke the Sav - ior's name,
- 3 When Pe - ter was preach - ing at Pen - te - cost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.
- 4 When Mar - y asked Je - sus to "come and see,"
- 5 John said the cit - y was just four - square,

All *to Refrain*

That I'll be there at the com - ing day,
 She knew she'd nev - er be the same,
 He was en - dowed with the Ho - ly Ghost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.
 Her faith gave Laz - a - rus vic - to - ry,
 And he de - clared he'd meet me there,

Leader

This African-American spiritual is one of a small number based not on the Hebrew Scriptures but the New Testament, specifically the book of Revelation. Stanzas two and four are additions to the traditional text and include some of the female followers of Jesus.

Tune: I WANT TO BE READY Irr.
African-American spiritual
 Arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981