



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Weave a Tapestry of Love”

**June 27, 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

“I Give My All To You”

*(Judy Nielsen)*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based on 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5; Psalm 9: 9-20)

One: We are a gathering of diverse people, a woven rainbow of threads drawn together as if a single prayer shawl, laying upon the shoulders of those who have been rejected, or harmed, broken by the world and how the world and Christians have treated our LGBTQIA+ children, siblings, parents, family friends.

**Many: We are a gathering of diverse people, a woven rainbow of threads drawn together as if a single prayer shawl, laying upon the shoulders of those who have stood up and who stand with all LGBTQIA+ people.**

One: We do not have to speak the same languages. We can witness different sacred truths. We can love differently, yet recognize that love is the same, no matter the gender of the person who shares it. For God created us for incorruption, made in the image of immortality.

**Many: We do not have to look the same, love the same, pray the same, or even believe the same. Blue uses red to shine. Yellow reflects next to green.**

One: Orange and purple. Black and white. Brown and pink. Homogenia, sameness should never be the goal. Our diversity is holy diversity.

**Many: We come together committing to deeper connection, to listen more, to see and witness, seeking compassion over conflict, hope over hate, joyful in intent and dismissing the false unity of sameness, woven in the unity of love. For God created us for incorruption, made in the image of love. We belong. We are the colors of love.**

#### OPENING HYMN

“Weave”

*(The Beyond The Walls Choir)*

#### GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Many: GRACIOUS GOD, you chose a rainbow as a sign of hope for the future of humanity and life on Earth. We praise you for the way the atmosphere during or after rain works together to create something as beautiful and bright as a rainbow. Thank you for the reds, oranges, yellows, greens, blues, indigoes, and violets of the arcs of color across the sky. We also**

**appreciate the other colors of nature, the browns, blacks, whites, silvers, and golds. Like the colors all around us, may we reflect some small measure of the breadth of your Grace to others. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LITANY OF FAITH

One: We are a garden: A community of many different colors and varieties growing together. We all need water, sun, and soil to grow. We live alongside one another, respecting one another, maintaining our identities, like an iris and a carnation, both beautiful, both distinct and different, but still connected.

**Many: We come together: To discover we have a common language: the language of our children, our families, our communities. The language of hope. The language of God's incredible love for the world.**

One: We seek to know one another. We need to build on these experiences of community, to be full of care for people of all faiths. We believe in our children being friends with other children who may not look like them, who may hold different beliefs, who have different backgrounds.

**Many: We believe the barriers are in our minds; justice, peace, and understanding will ultimately prevail. We believe we share a common origin as human beings; we are children of the same creator.**

One: We believe in the dignity and worth of all human beings, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey. We know the world is big enough for all of us, because we believe in a world of love and love creates space for all to live and thrive.

**Many: Amen.**

ANTHEM

“For Everyone Born”

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 30 NRSV (pg. 494)

<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, O GOD, for you have drawn me up,  
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

<sup>2</sup> O GOD, my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.

<sup>3</sup> O GOD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,  
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

<sup>4</sup> Sing praises to God, O you faithful ones,  
and give thanks to God's holy name.

<sup>5</sup> For God's anger is but for a moment;  
God's favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.

<sup>6</sup> As for me, I said in my prosperity,  
“I shall never be moved.”

<sup>7</sup> By your favor, O GOD,

you had established me as a strong mountain;  
you hid your face;  
I was dismayed.

<sup>8</sup> To you, O GOD, I cried,  
and to God I made supplication:  
<sup>9</sup> “What profit is there in my death,  
if I go down to the Pit?  
Will the dust praise you?  
Will it tell of your faithfulness?  
<sup>10</sup> Hear, O GOD, and be gracious to me!  
O GOD, be my helper!”

<sup>11</sup> You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,  
<sup>12</sup> so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.  
O my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Corinthians 8:7-15 NRSV (pg. 1055)

<sup>7</sup> Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

<sup>8</sup> I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. <sup>10</sup> And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— <sup>11</sup> now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. <sup>12</sup> For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. <sup>13</sup> I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between <sup>14</sup> your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. <sup>15</sup> As it is written,

“The one who had much did not have too much,  
and the one who had little did not have too little.”

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

“Weave a Tapestry of Love”  
*(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Here Is Love”  
*(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 #351

“I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”

*(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 in-person fellowship in Fitzgerald Garden at 1pm.

## 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
- Call to worship: Colors of Love, Wisdom of Solomon 2:23 by Kimi Floyd Reisch, 2021.
- Gathering Prayer: Collect for Colors by Jane Richardson Jensen, Patricia Harris-Watkins in *She Who Prays: A Woman's Interfaith Prayer Book*.
- Litany of Faith: Litany of Faith and Hope, UCC Version, adapted by Kimi Floyd Reisch from *A Litany of Faith and Hope* published by the Muslim and Unitarian Universalist communities of greater Columbus, Ohio.
- **I Give My All To You**  
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- **For Everyone Born**  
(Many thanks to Adrian Marchuk for granting us permission to use this video and to the Windemere United Church of Toronto for creating and posting it. "For Everyone Born (A Place At The Table)," Written by Shirley Erena Murray, Arranged by Adrian Marchuk, Additional Lyrics by Adrian Marchuk, Performed by Adrian Marchuk (piano), with vocals by Chris Tsujiuchi, Stewart Adam McKensy, Elena Juatco, and Evangelia Kambites, Performed for Pride 2020 in virtual worship for Windemere United Church, To use in a worship service or to get the arrangement: [www.adrianmarchuk.com/contact#09112](http://www.adrianmarchuk.com/contact#09112), *One License*)
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- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** - Adaptation  
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr.)
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## SUNDAY ROSTER

**Liturgist** – Freida Schneeberger

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

**Homily** – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

**Virtual Coordinator** – Kelly Stuitable-Clark

**Music Coordinator** – Kelly Stuitable-Clark

**Pianist** – Chuck Byam

**Organist** – Judy Nielsen

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## **Weave**

Weave, weave, weave us together.

Weave us together in unity and love.

Weave, weave, weave us together.

Weave us together, together in love.

We are many textures, we are many colors,  
each one different from the other.

But we are entwined with one another  
in one great tapestry.

We are different instruments playing our own melodies,  
each one tuning to a different key.

But we are all playing in harmony  
in one great symphony.

Moments ago we did not know  
our unity, only diversity.

Now the Christ in me greets the Christ in thee  
in one great family.

## I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be  
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was  
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too  
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you  
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the  
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you  
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.  
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.  
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.  
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

I was there when you were but a child, with a  
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you  
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you  
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your  
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.  
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.  
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.