

**“Let Us Go On Our Way, Rejoicing”
Open and Affirming Sunday: Thriving in Community
June 6, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come today, representing all the majesty of creation

Many: Diverse and beautiful, blessed and beloved, all made in the image of the Creator of all things.

One: We come today, called to this time and this place by an infinite God

Many: Who hears our cries and responds with love and mercy.

One: We come today, Transgender, Nonbinary, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Intersex, Asexual, Gay, Queer, Ally.

Many: We come today, knowing you will listen and answer our needs.

One: We come today, to deliver our joined prayers of hope.

Many: We come today, a people mourning still our losses, still recovering from the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic and the pandemic of institutionalized racism that has plagued our world for too many centuries.

One: We come today, knowing you care for us

Many: We come today, knowing that even when others reject us, your arms are open to offer comfort. We come.

OPENING HYMN

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

“All are Welcome” (by Mary Haugen)

GATHERING PRAYER

One: Each of us is created with worth, imbued with dignity.

Many: We are the representation of God’s love in the world.

One: We are diverse in our experiences, vast in our manifestation of how love looks.

Many: Our families are all different, but each represents and honors the many ways that your people live and love.

One: Our lives are enriched when LGBTQIA+ people are welcomed and affirmed in our churches and communities.

Many: Our lives are enriched when our Black, Latinx, and Indigenous neighbors are affirmed.

One: Your words, shared in Scripture, call us to be a people of justice.
Many: We all suffer when any LGBT person is oppressed, excluded, or shamed.
 One: When justice is denied to any of us, justice is denied to all of us.
Many: Until we are all free, none of us are free.
 One: May we work to build a world where all people are affirmed with love.
Many: Our sexual and gender diversity enriches us, creates joy in our lives--Joy given by and through you. In your name, we pledge to go out to share these blessings with the world. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Just a Little Talk with Jesus”
(Judy Nielsen & Chuck Byam)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 56:1-8 NRSV (pg. 672)

56 Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
 for soon my salvation will come,
 and my deliverance be revealed.

2 Happy is the mortal who does this,
 the one who holds it fast,
 who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it,
 and refrains from doing any evil.

3 Do not let the foreigner joined to the LORD say,
 “The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;
 and do not let the eunuch say,
 “I am just a dry tree.”

4 For thus says the LORD:
 To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths,
 who choose the things that please me
 and hold fast my covenant,

5 I will give, in my house and within my walls,
 a monument and a name
 better than sons and daughters;
 I will give them an everlasting name
 that shall not be cut off.

6 And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
 to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
 and to be his servants,
 all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
 and hold fast my covenant—

7 these I will bring to my holy mountain,
 and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 8:26-40 NRSV (pg.1000)

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

“Let Us Go On Our Way, Rejoicing”
(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION VIDEO

“This Little Light of Mine”

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

“Strengthen the Church”

We will take an in-person offering for “Strengthen the Church,” a national UCC offering that provides grants for churches who are struggling or hoping to grow one of their ministries.

Please join us at the church from 1-2pm or mail in your offering to

FCUCC with “Strengthen the Church” on the memo line.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

One: Please join me in the Prayer of Confession.

Many: O God, you offer us life. In you, we are free from the pressure of our world to conform—to all become like. Like a tapestry, we are created with diverse and beautiful threads that only fully shine when they are braided together in creation. You want us to not just survive, but flourish in a world that you imagined—filled with mercy, with love, with beauty.

But we have not always honored the gifts you have given. We reject our neighbors—othering them for being different from us. We reject and harm people for loving who you gave them to love, for being who you created them to be, all because we cannot honor the diversity of your creation. Since the very beginnings of your Church, we have struggled to overcome our fear-based rejection of difference.

Yet, we cannot forget that in love, Your child came to be different, to overcome fear, to be everything the world would reject. Your children are the LGBTQ+ children rejected and cast from their family for daring to Come Out as their true selves. Your child did not see outcasts, but only your own people. So we ask for your forgiveness, God, and we pray that you help us to be more like Christ is our loving, in our acceptance, in our understanding. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Dear Ones, in Christ, difference is seen again as God created it – holy and beloved. In Jesus, the Sacredness of those on the margins of the world is centered and affirmed, the tables upended, love overcomes hate. And in Christ, we all are forgiven our shortcomings and our sins. God's grace is wide!

Many: Thanks be to God.

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to you, O Lord.
Blessed is the one who comes,
Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING AND LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION SONG

"One Bread, One Body"
(Ben Banks and Judy Nielsen)

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: God, we thank you for inviting us to, and nurturing us at, this table. We ask that you bless us in our covenantal calling of extravagant welcome, constant learning and growth, and a life of grace and love. May we go forth from this table renewed, restored, and trusting always in your guiding spirit. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #402

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

"Des Colores"

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.

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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Troy Arient

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily - Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Kelly Stuible-Clark

Music Coordinator – Brandon Frost

Pianist – Chuck Byam

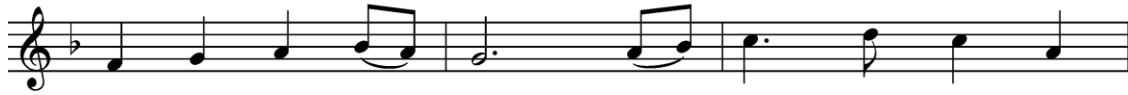
Organist – Judy Nielsen

Guest Singer – Ben Banks

All Are Welcome



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

De colores (Sing of Colors)

Mexican folk song

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1995

1 De co - lo - res, de co - lo - res se vis - ten los
1 Sing of col - ors, sing of col - ors that o - ver the
2 Sing, re - joic - ing! Ev - ery crea - ture that breathes raise a

cam - pos en la pri - ma - ve - ra. De co -
hills in pro - fu - sion are spring - ing; Sing of
song to the God of cre - a - tion. Sing, re -

lo - res, de co - lo - res son los pa - ja - ri - tos que vie - nen de a -
col - ors of the birds that fly out - side my win - dow their can - ti - cles
joic - ing! Sing to God who so ear - nest - ly cares, who has of - fered sal -

fue - ra. De co - lo - res, de co -
sing - ing; Sing of col - ors, in the
va - tion. Sing the good news! Sing the

lo - res es el ar - co i - ris que ve - mos sa - lir, Y por
rain - bow's bright col - ors God's prom - ise of hope we re - call; Sing of
love of the Sav - ior re - flect - ing the col - ors of all. Man - y

e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co - lo - res me gus - tan a
col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who cre - at - ed us
col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that tell us God's love to re -
mí, Y por e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co -
all. Sing of col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the
call. Man - y col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that
lo - res me gus - tan a mí.
God who cre - at - ed us all.
tell us God's love to re - call.