



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Dancing With God”

July 11, 2021

10:30 a.m. In-Person and 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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• 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. As you enter the sanctuary, please share your offering in the offering plate by the door. We ask that you wear a mask and social distance from others not in your family or pod.*

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

“May the Lord Bless You and Keep You”
(Chuck Byam)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us come into the House of the Holy One with song and dance.

Many: **We have come to worship our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, seas and rivers, and all that dwell within.**

One: The Lord of the Dance beckons us to join in this time of celebration and joy...

Many: **That we might know that we are gathered in God’s holy place.**

One: We join the psalmist with songs of the glory of the God of Hosts.

Many: **We seek to know God’s faithfulness and wisdom.**

All: **Let us enter God’s rhythm of life and follow in the ways of the Word. God will bring us home where dancing and joy will never end!**

OPENING HYMN #85

“I Woke Up this Morning”

(We will remain seated during the hymns and you are encouraged to quietly follow along and reflect on the verses printed in this bulletin while enjoying the music as it is being played.)

GATHERING PRAYER (in unison)

All: **Holy God of change and glory, we ask that you walk along side us and bless us as we enter into this new journey of hybrid church. Help us to dance through the unexpected twists and turns of this time with humor, grace, and understanding, simply joyful that you are helping us find new ways to come together and worship you. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 NRSV (pg. 277)

6 David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. 3 They

carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart ⁴ with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. ⁵ David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

¹² It was told King David, “The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; ¹³ and when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. ¹⁴ David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷ They brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the LORD. ¹⁸ When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts, ¹⁹ and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-14 NRSV (pg.1064)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

“Dancing with God”
(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“A Place at the Table”
(Chuck Byam)

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

(For those of us meeting in person, you are invited to place your offering in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. For those of you worshipping at home, please give what you can by mail or through prayers. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com)

DOXOLOGY

DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: Beloved God, accept the gifts we offer, and bless them to the fulfillment of our calling. 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. May it be so. Amen

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: Holy God, we confess that too often we have not been open to the rhythms of life you offer to us. We let ourselves be put off your pace and allow ourselves to wander off into our own songs. Too often the melodies of the world confuse us. We have led ourselves and others to paths that are not according to your loving pace and direction. Help us pay attention with all of our senses. Make our dancing faithful; help us take the risks that are part of letting you lead. Pull us back into your rhythms. Clean our hearts, purify our hands and steady our feet that we might know and share your blessings. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Dear Ones, the God of Hosts assures us that if we trust God's Word, we will be led back to the songs that God would have us sing. God is eager to show us the path home. Accept the offer of the new song we have been given through Jesus the Christ and know that you are forgiven and blessed.

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

"Come to the Table"
(Mary Lou Prevost)

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

"Lord of the Dance"

(We will remain seated during the hymns and you are encouraged to quietly follow along and reflect on the verses printed in this bulletin while enjoying the music as it is being played.)

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

"Ode to Joy"
(Judy Nielsen)

CREDITS

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SUNDAY ROSTER

Head Usher – Chris Cypher

Greeter – Gary Cypher

Liturgist – Anita Calcagno

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily - Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Kelly Stuible-Clark

Sound Board – Charlynn Walker

Music Coordinator – Brandon Frost

Pianist – Chuck Byam

Organist – Judy Nielsen

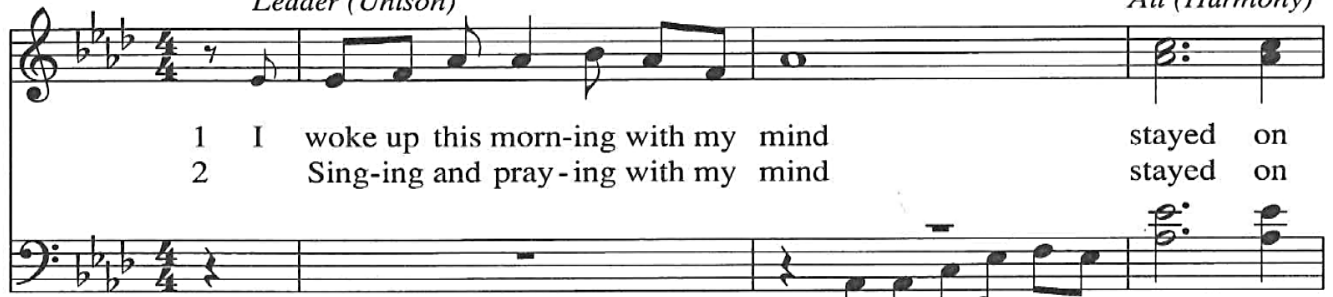
Guest Singer – Mary Lou Prevost

I Woke Up This Morning

85

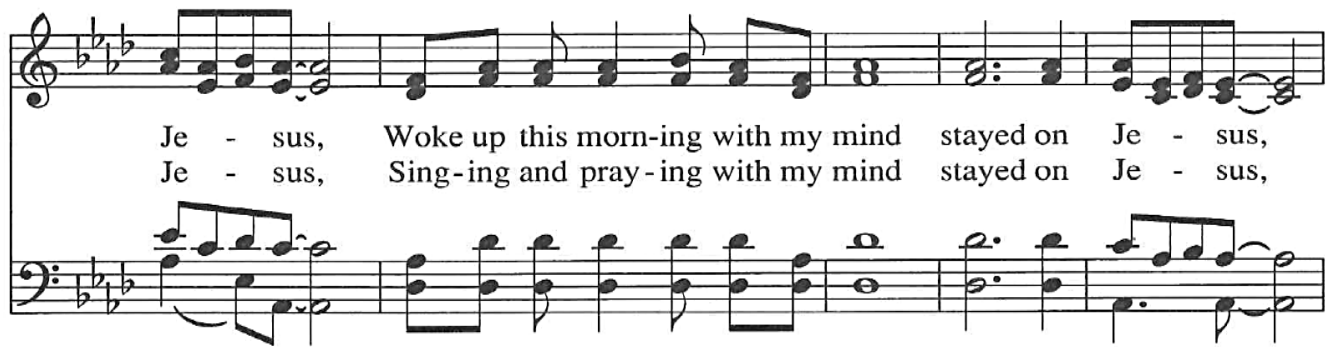
African-American traditional

Leader (Unison) *All (Harmony)*



1 I woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on
2 Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on

Hal-le - lu - jah,

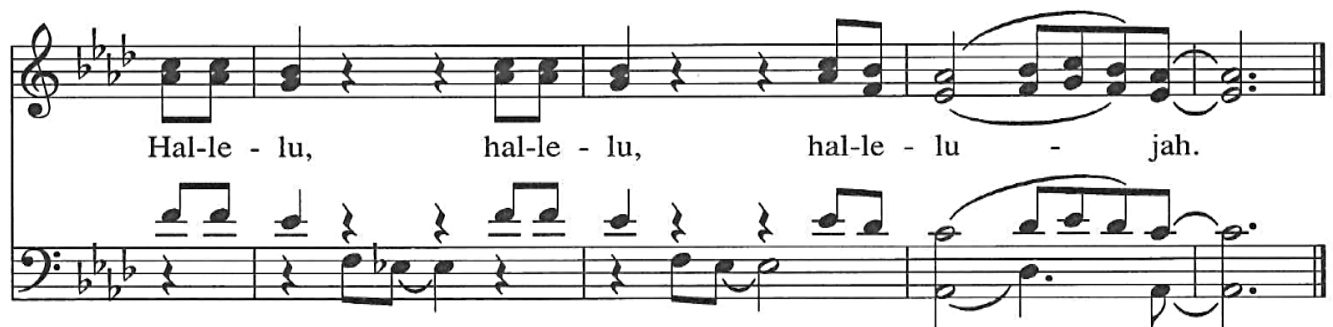


Je - sus, Woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,
Je - sus, Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,



Woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,
Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,

Hal-le-lu - jah,



Hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu - jah.

Hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah.

Lord of the Dance

Unison G Em Bm Em

1. I danced in the morning when the world was be-gun, and I
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they
 3. I danced on the sab-bath when I cured the lame, the
 4. I danced on a Fri-day and the sky turned black; it's
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,

Am D7

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 would not dance and they would not fol - low me; I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame; they
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back; they
 I am the life that 'll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll

G Em Bm Em

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John; they
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me;

Am D7 C G Refrain G Bm

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came to me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher -
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Em G

ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Am D G C G D7

Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may

G C D7 G C G

be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It consists of ten systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a guitar accompaniment line with chords. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The chords used are G, Em, Bm, Am, D7, C, and D. The piece is marked 'Unison' at the beginning. The lyrics are a traditional hymn about the Lord of the Dance, with five verses. The score ends with a final chord of G.