



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“I’ll Do What I Can”
July 25, 2021
10:30 a.m. 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

Jim Robinson, 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.
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

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We join together as hungry eaters to be nourished by the food that you offer us.

Many: God of sustenance, give us this day our daily bread.

One: As you care for the wheat and rice fields that turn into bread and the vineyards that labor to produce sweet wine, tend to our bodies by feeding us what we need for healthy growth.

Many: God of abundance, give us this day our daily bread.

One: The rich crops that you have prepared are now ready to be harvested by our hands and our hearts.

Many: Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.

OPENING HYMN #1

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

(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)*

Many: Holy Chef, may we savor the dishes that you have prepared for us this day. With each bite of your holy feast, enliven our senses so that we may delight in the new and tantalizing flavors you have created.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Jim Robinson

GOSPEL LESSON

John 6: 1-21 NRSV

6 After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. **2** A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing

for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹ “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” ¹⁰ Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

“I’ll Do What I Can”

(Jim Robinson)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Holy Ground”

(Judy Nielsen)

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

(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

CLOSING HYMN #82

“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

(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

“Praise”
(Judy Nielsen)

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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Ben Banks

Fresh Perspective – Jim Robinson

Homily – Jim Robinson

Virtual Coordinator – Thea Oatman

Organist – Judy Nielsen

Usher – Fay Schroeder

Greeter – Freida Schneeberger

Sound Board – Mae Clark

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983, 1990; alt.

1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;

Wak - ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis-mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here with ten - der com-fort stilled you;

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.

For marriage services, this stanza may be sung between stanzas 1 and 2 above.

In this un-ion I have joined you hus-band and wife,
Now, my chil-dren, live to-geth-er as heirs of life:
Each the oth-er's glad-ness shar-ing,
each the oth-er's bur-dens bear-ing,
Now, my chil-dren, live to-geth-er as heirs of life.