



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Finding Refuge and Strength in Silence”

Blessings of Strength and Refuge

August 15, 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

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.*

If you are new to our church or do not receive email updates from us, please share your name and contact information with us by contacting us: office@grandledgeucc.org

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: Come into this household of God that we might seek refuge from the struggles of this world.

Many: **When we seek refuge in God, the loving companionship of friends and our church community, we find strength.**

One: Seek refuge in the Lord, in the testimony of scripture, in the quiet stirring of the breezes, in the inner voice of your heart.

Many: **God speaks gently through the silences, through nature, and through the loving-kindness of others.**

One: Trust in the Lord, in God's compassion and mercy.

Many: **We trust in God's presence, feeling it all around us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #467

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"

(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: **Beloved God, we come to you seeking refuge from the troubles of this world. Grant us a sense of your presence and the presence of those who have gone before us, that we may be strengthened for our continued journey. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

"I'm Surrounded"

*(Video Recording : Written and performed by Mia McClain,
accompanied by Dawn Anthony and Adrienne Williams)*

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Job 1: 13-19 and Job 2: 7-8 & 11-13 NRSV (pg. 444)

¹³ One day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the eldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were feeding beside them, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans fell on them and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, ¹⁹ and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you."

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him. ¹² When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. ¹³ They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 22: 39-44 NRSV (pg. 960)

³⁹ He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." ⁴¹ Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." ⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴ In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

“Finding Refuge and Strength in Silence”

(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION “God, Bless Your Church with Strength!”

(Chuck Byam)

God, Bless Your Church with Strength!

**Wherever we may be, build up your people as we work in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith to venture and to soar through open skies,
to sing the praise of Christ whom we adore.**

God, Bless Your Church with hope!

**Despite chaotic days, may we in darkness shine
to light a pathway through life's maze.**

**May justice be our aim, and kindness ours to share, in humbleness,
Oh, may we walk, assured our God is there!**

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

CLOSING HYMN

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (The Solid Rock)”

(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

“God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength”

(Chuck Byam)

CREDITS

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- **I'm Surrounded**
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- **Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth**
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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Rich Brown

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Chad Frost

Pianist/Organist – Chuck Byam

Usher – Nate Oliver

Greeter – Erica Oliver

Sound Board – Charlynn Walker

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Gen. 1:1-5; Matt. 26:26-29;
Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20

Jean Janzen, 1991
Based on the writings of Julian of Norwich

1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing One, in arms of

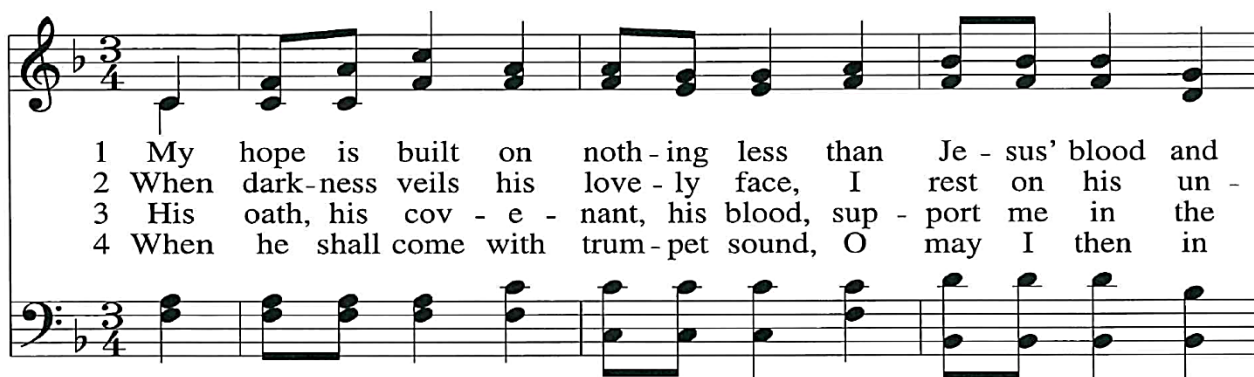
morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor,
me your food of light, Grain . . . of
pa - tience hold me close, So that in

Source of ev - ery breath, you are my rain, my wind, my
life, and grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my
faith I root and grow un - til I flower, un - til I

sun; you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
peace; your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
know; un - til I flower, un - til I know.

1-2 3

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 405

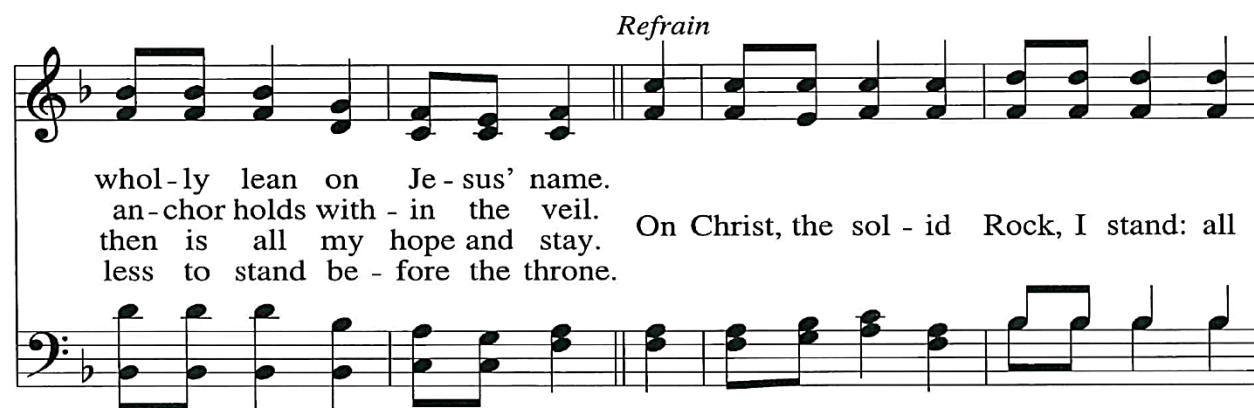


1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood, sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in



right - eous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found: dressed in his right - eous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain



whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand: all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.



oth - er ground is sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

WORDS: Edward Mote (1797-1874)
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

SOLID ROCK
 L.M.Ref.