# First Congregational

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"Becoming a Blessing" Rooted In Love August 8, 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

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • grandledgeucc.org

• 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

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" (Chuck Byam)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:
- Many: We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.
- One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
- Many: We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God, my soul waits, for.

Many: We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God, more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.

### **OPENING HYMN #472**

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

(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: God of Healing and Transformation, we hunger and thirst for your abundant life. We bring you our sorrow and ask for the bread of joy; we bring you our despair and ask for the bread of hope; we bring you our weariness and ask for the bread of inspiration. Meet us here. We need the bread of heaven to sustain us for our journey to find our way, that we may we be one with you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 34:1-8 NRSV (pg. 497)

<sup>1</sup> I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. <sup>2</sup> My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. <sup>3</sup>O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. <sup>4</sup> I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. <sup>5</sup> Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. <sup>6</sup> This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. <sup>8</sup> O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 NRSV (pg. 1066)

<sup>25</sup> So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup> Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup> Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup> and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. **5** <sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup> and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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

### Many: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

"Becoming a Blessing" (*Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage*)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"Here I Am" (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 <u>hartacre3@aol.com</u>)

### 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 #539

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant"

(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

"The Trumpet Will Sound" (Chuck Byam)

### 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
- Hunger and Thirst for God: Service Prayers for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, was written by the Rev. Bonnie Tarwater of San Diego, CA. ©2021, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful (#00118, One License #732777-A, Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taize, Tune: ©1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: ©1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc.)
- Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (#97975, One License, Contributors: Public Domain)
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand (#73682, One License, © 1938, 1966 Hal Leonard Corporation [select catalogs], Contributors: Thomas Dorsey, George Allen)
- The Trumpet Will Sound (#94089, One License, Contributors: Ken Bible, Tune: © 2011 LNWHymns Text: © 2011 LNWHymns)

## • Here I Am

(#D-0280, One License, Contributors: Anne Ward, The Grail, Decani Music, Tune: © 2005 Anne Ward. Published by Decani Music. Text: © 1996 The Grail)

 Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant (#72673, CCLI, Richard Gillard, Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing ©1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing [Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.])

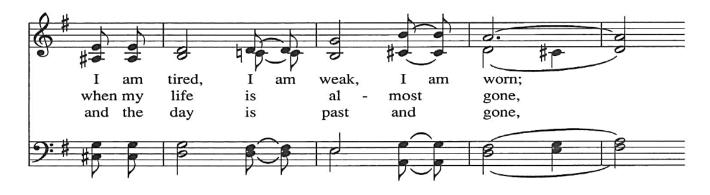
### SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Lisa Reed Fresh Perspective – Karen Holcomb-Merril Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage Virtual Coordinator – David Gruner Music Coordinator – Linda Gooley Pianist – Chuck Byam Usher – Lisa Reed Greeter – Pat Reed Sound Board – Karen Walker

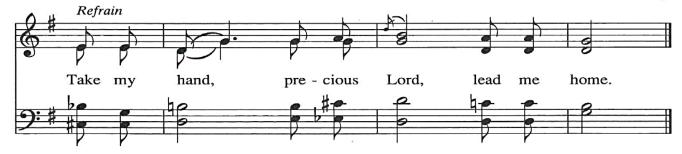
# Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.









Thomas A. Dorsey was known as "Georgia Tom" when he played piano for blues singer Ma Rainey. He started writing gospel songs after what he called "a definite spiritual change." This inspirational song, composed following the deaths of his wife, Nettie, and a newborn child, derives from the tune Maitland.

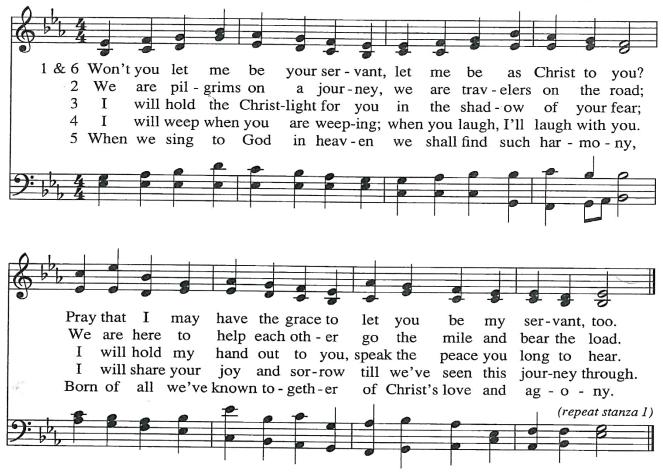
Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

# Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

539



Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7. Richard Gillard, 1977 Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.