



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Comfort and Affliction”

October 10, 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

Volunteers, Office Administrator

Ben Sackett, Custodian

Rev. Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator

Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director

Chuck Byam, Organist

Brandon Frost, Choir Director

Nicole Finney, Child Care

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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.*

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

INTROIT “What Brings Us Together”
(Chancel Choir)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: It is said that the word of God comforts the afflicted.

Many: We come today, seeking comfort for the afflictions of our world.

One: Enter into this place of worship, praying for our earth, for those who suffer from job loss, from trauma, from illness, from the loss of friends and family, from a sense that the world just doesn't care about them.

Many: We come, trusting that our prayers and actions of love support those in need.

One: It is said that the word of God afflicts the comfortable.

Many: We come today, willing to accept that affliction.

One: Enter into this place of worship, praying for an open mind and heart.

Many: We come, approaching the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find the grace we need to seek justice for everyone we may be leaving out.

One: God's messages are many and varied, speaking what we need to hear on this day.

Many: Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN (#454, Versus 1-4)

“Lord, I Want to be a Christian”

(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

**Many: O God, you sowed the seeds of justice when you created this world.
Though your bountiful creation has enough for everyone, it is hardly**

divided fairly. There are those who struggle to get their daily bread each day and then there are those who have more than they can use in their lifetime. May we remember that all we have comes from you and that you have entrusted to us all that we have. May we take your commandments to heart so we can do as Jesus asks of us. Grant that we, O God, use this hour to work in our ministries to end this disparity. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“For Everyone Born”

(Written by Shirley Erena Murray, Arranged by Adrian Marchuk, Additional Lyrics by Adrian Marchuk, Performed by Adrian Marchuk (piano), with vocals by Chris Tsujiuchi, Stewart Adam McKensy, Elena Juatco, and Evangelia Kambites)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

“Peace Be With You”

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 22:1-15 NRSV (pg. 490)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

“Commit your cause to the Lord; let God deliver—let God rescue the one in whom God delights!”

Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

NEW TESTAMENT

Mark 10:17-31 NRSV (pg. 921)

17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” 20 He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” 21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” 22 When he heard this, he was

shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. 23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” 24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is[b] to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” 27 Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

28 Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” 29 Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Spirit of Gentleness” (chorus)

**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

“Comfort and Affliction”
(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Forever”
(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**

CLOSING HYMN vs1-4

“We Are Not Our Own”

(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

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

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

“Anyone Can Move a Mountain
(Adaptation by Chuck Byam)

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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Rich Brown

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – David Gruner

Sound Board - Charlynn Walker

Choir Director - Brandon Frost

Pianist/Organist – Chuck Byam

Hymn Singer – Rev. Ellen Robinson

Usher – Kim Dible

Greeter – Connie Dible

Crucifer - Karen Walker

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

454

*African-American spiritual**Deut. 6:5-6; 10:12-16*


1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Refrain



In my heart, In my heart, in my heart,
 In my heart, in my heart, in my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Many of the enslaved of antebellum America did not want to become Christians because they did not want to adopt the religion of their captors. But this spiritual attests that the Christian faith was an internal strength and aim for many.

Tune: I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
 8.6.8.3. with refrain
African-American spiritual
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

28. We Are Not Our Own

Brian Wren

Brian Wren, arr. Fred Graham

Yarnton, 8985.

(♩ = 72)
Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It begins with a treble clef and a 3/2 time signature. The tempo is marked as (♩ = 72). The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: '1. We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu-man leaves on na-ture's grow-ing vine, fruit of man-y gen-er - a - tions, seeds of life di-vine.' The score includes a key signature change from one sharp (F#) to two sharps (F# and C#) after the first line of music.

1. We are not our own. Earth forms us,
human leaves on nature's growing vine,
fruit of many generations,
seeds of life divine.
2. We are not alone. Earth names us:
past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers
show us who we are.
3. Through a human life God finds us;
dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us:
we are not our own.
4. Therefore let us make thanksgiving,
and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth, and all things living,
liturgies of care.
5. And if love's encounters lead us
on a way uncertain and unknown,
all the saints with prayer surround us:
We are not alone.
6. Let us be a house of welcome,
living stone upholding living stone,
gladly showing all our neighbors
we are not our own!

Brian Wren,
for Drew University Liturgical Studies Program.