



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Faith Without Reward”**

**October 17, 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  
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

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)

• 517-627-2336 • [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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: We may come here for a glimpse of glory,

**Many: But Jesus asks us: “Can you drink the cup that I drink?”**

One: The cup of Jesus’ own life: struggle and joy; suffering and hope.

Fullness of life! We may come here to get close to Jesus,

**Many: And Jesus asks us: “Can you be baptized with my baptism?”**

One: Baptized into the reign of God, where the Spirit breaks down barriers among all

People and creates new relationships! We may come here for honor or fame,

**Many: But Jesus challenges us: “To become great you must serve!”**

One: Why are we here?

**Many: To drink the cup of fullness of life; To immerse ourselves in Jesus’ struggle for justice and peace; To learn how to serve so that the world may be healed.**

### OPENING HYMN (#492, Versus 1-3)

“I Would be True”

*(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: Holy Dwelling Place, your tent is wide enough to provide shelter for all who seek you, food for all who hunger, and healing for all who suffer. Meet us here today, and fill us with confidence in your presence, that we may risk sharing Jesus’ cup and his baptism so the world may become the place of love and justice you desire for all. Shelter us with your light, and clothe us with your heavenly garments. Teach us how we may best serve ourselves and one another on this daring adventure. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

ANTHEM

“Canon of Praise”  
(Chancel Choir)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Job 38: 1-7 and 34-41 NRSV (pg. 474-475)

Then the God answered Job out of the whirlwind:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings[a] shouted for joy?

“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,  
so that a flood of waters may cover you?

Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go  
and say to you, ‘Here we are’?

Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,  
or given understanding to the mind?

Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?

Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,  
when the dust runs into a mass  
and the clods cling together?

“Can you hunt the prey for the lion,  
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,  
when they crouch in their dens,  
or lie in wait in their covert?

Who provides for the raven its prey,  
when its young ones cry to God,  
and wander about for lack of food?

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

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

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL RESPONSE  
(chorus)

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

**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

“Faith Without Reward”  
(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“The Lord is my Light”  
(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.)*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy Kin-dom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kin-dom and the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen**

## 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](mailto:hartacre3@aol.com))*

## DOXOLOGY

## DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

**Many: Parent God, may this offering assist us in continuing Christ's work in the world to heal the grief, transgressions, and illnesses that oppress and harm your creation. Amen**

## CLOSING HYMN (#459)

“Come, O Fount of Every 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

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

“Since Jesus Came Into My Heart”

*(Chuck Byam)*

## CREDITS

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## SUNDAY ROSTER

**Liturgist** – Freida Schneeberger

**Fresh Perspective** – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

**Homily** – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

**Virtual Coordinator** – Chad Frost

**Sound Board** - Julie Wilkerson

**Choir Director** - Brandon Frost

**Pianist/Organist** – Chuck Byam

**Hymn Singer** – Choir

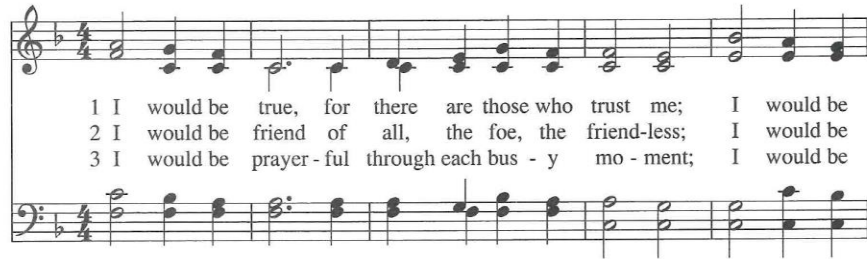
**Usher** – Chris Cypher

**Greeter** – Gary Cypher

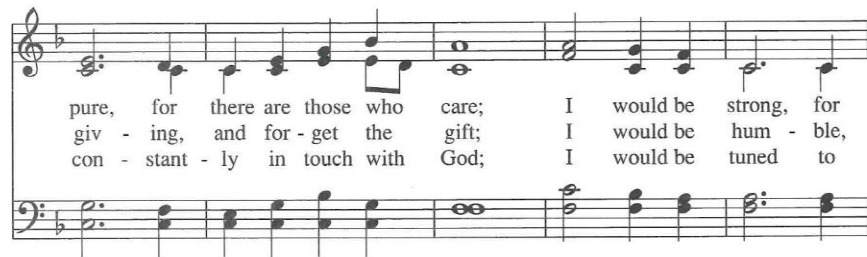
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## I Would Be True

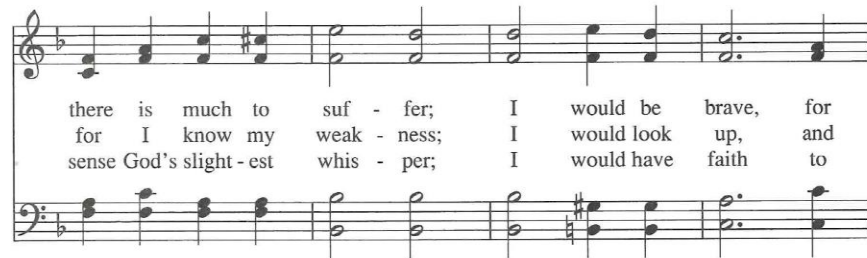
St. 1, 2, Howard Arnold Walter, 1917  
 St. 3, anon.; alt.



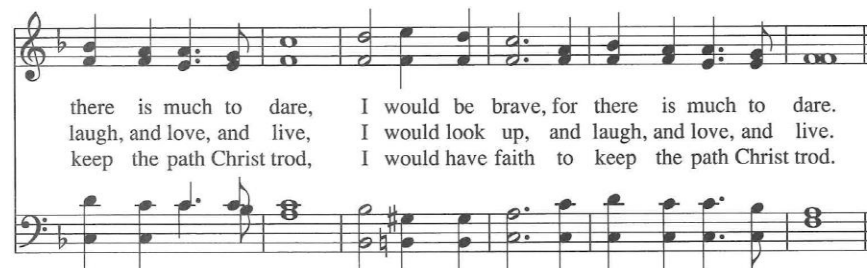
1 I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be  
 2 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friend-less; I would be  
 3 I would be prayer-ful through each bus - y mo - ment; I would be



pure, for there are those who care; I would be strong, for  
 giv - ing, and for - get the gift; I would be hum - ble,  
 con - stant - ly in touch with God; I would be tuned to



there is much to suf - fer; I would be brave, for  
 for I know my weak - ness; I would look up, and  
 sense God's slight - est whis - per; I would have faith to



there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.  
 laugh, and love, and live, I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.  
 keep the path Christ trod, I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

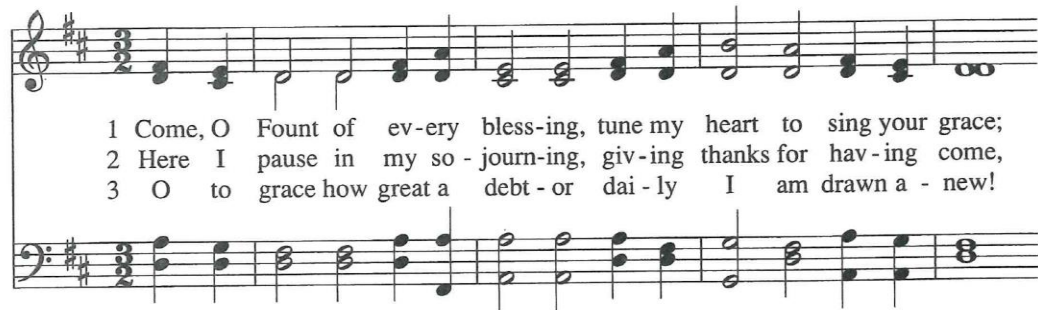
The first two stanzas of this hymn are from "My Creed," a poem that Howard Walter sent to his mother from Japan, where he taught English before becoming a Congregational minister. Walter died at the age of thirty-five while working for the Y.M.C.A. in India.

Tune: PEEK 11.10.11.10.10.  
 Joseph Y. Peek, 1911

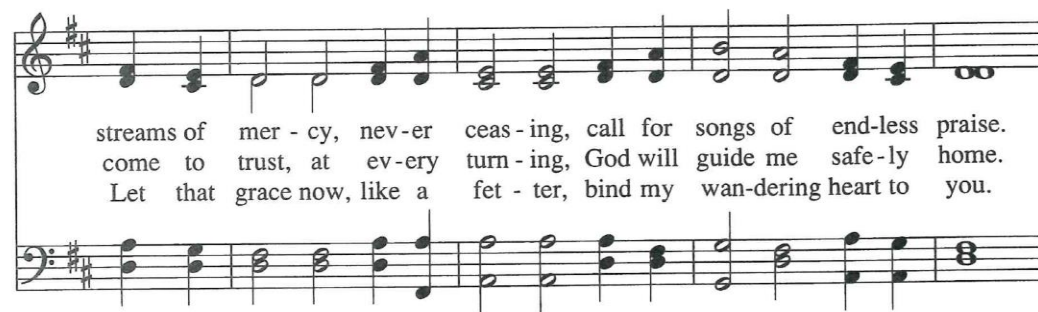
## Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

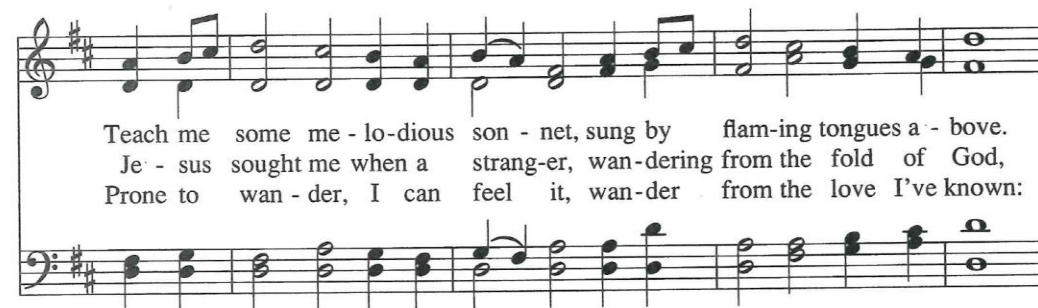
Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.



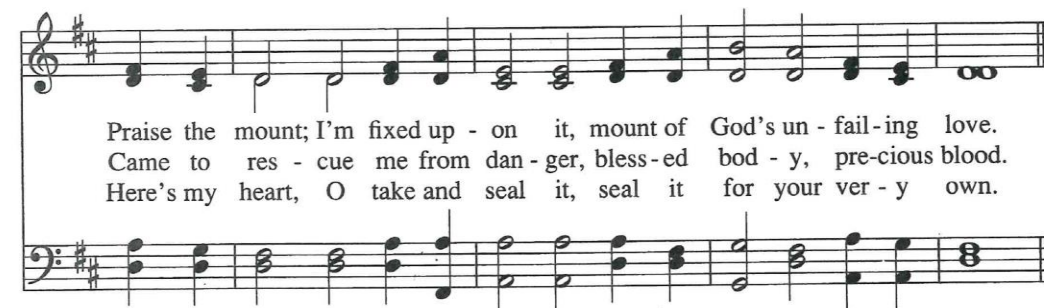
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,  
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.  
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,  
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.  
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.  
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813