



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Mustard Seeds and Yeast”
Stewardship Sunday
November 14, 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
Larry Patterson, 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

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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

“Weaving Round”

(Chancel Choir)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come into this time of worship by the new and living way in Christ Jesus.

Many: We come with true hearts in full assurance of our faith.

One: Come with joyful expectation.

Many: We gather in full confidence of the gospel’s promise.

One: Let us praise God together and open ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit

Many: That we may encourage and support each other to love our neighbors as ourselves and to be God’s instruments of grace.

OPENING HYMN #8

“Praise to the Living God”

(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: In you, O God, we find refuge from our turbulent world.

We work each day to bear witness to your justice through our ministries.

While the journey towards true peace that lies ahead is long,

our incremental steps continue to take us closer to that promised day.

Renew in us the strength, faith, and courage we need to persevere

so that the promised day will come when your will

will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Celebration No. 5 in C”

(*Grand Bell Ringers*)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

SUNG BLESSING #325

“Child of Blessing”

**Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God’s you are, from God you came.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
Live as one who bears Christ’s name.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 24:1-5 & 7-10 NRSV (491-492)

The earth is God’s and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for God has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.

Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the Ruler of glory may come in.

Who is the Ruler of glory?
God, strong and mighty,
God, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the Ruler of glory may come in.

Who is this Ruler of glory?
Our God of hosts,
They are the Ruler of glory. Selah

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:18-21 NRSV (951)

Jesus said therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.” And again he said, “To what should I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE

“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

“Mustard Seeds and Yeast”
(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Jesus Medley”
Linda Gooley.

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.)

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Chris Cypher

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

“Praise God To Whom All Blessings Flow”

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 (#4)

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

(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

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus” - Adaptation
(Chuck Byam)

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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Freida Schneeberger

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Thea Oatman & David Gruner

Sound Board - Karen Walker

Choir Director - Brandon Frost

Pianist/Organist – Chuck Byam

Hymn Singer – Choir

Usher – Kathy Burt

Greeter – Gary Burt

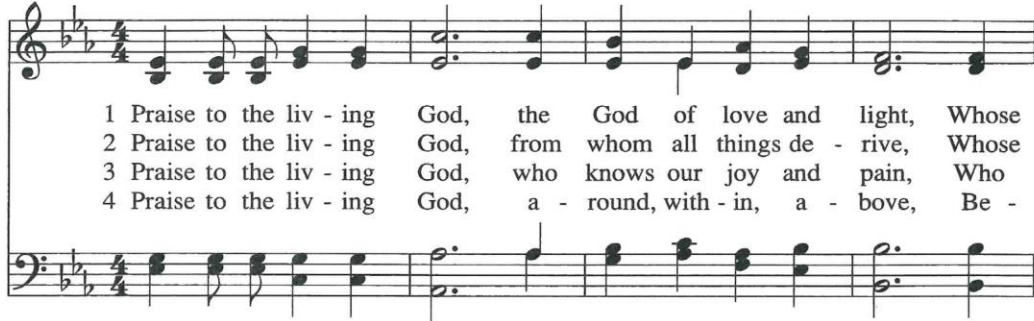
GOD

8

Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

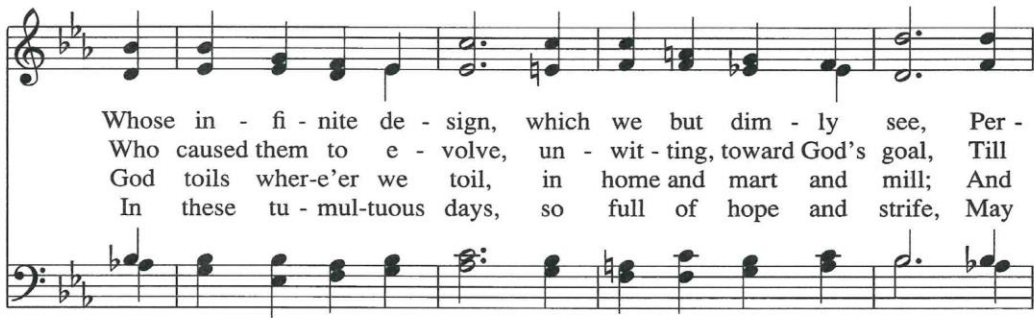
Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.



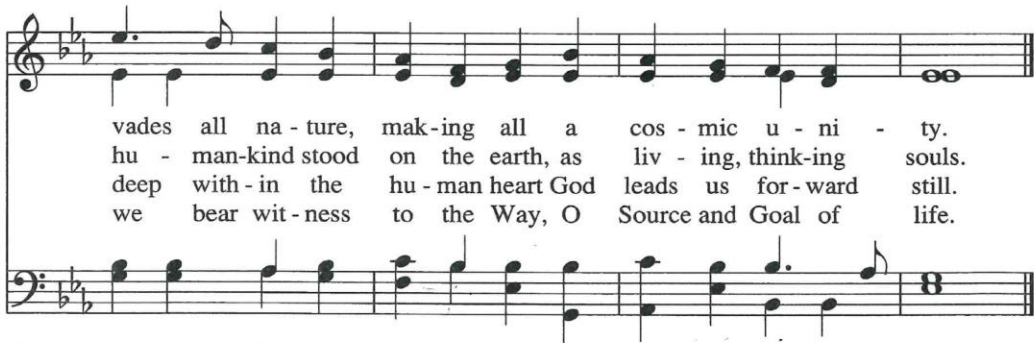
1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May



vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

GOD

4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound-less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759–1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981

1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap - tized with the Spir-it's sign;
 2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in-deed!
 3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
 4 Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.

With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
 Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
 Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

Ronald Cole-Turner, a teacher of theology, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He is an award-winning author on the interface of science and religion.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716), in Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715