



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Restoring the World”  
September 12, 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. 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)

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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](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

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Wisdom calls to us to receive our blessings.

**Many: We recognize and give thanks for the good things that fill our lives.**

One: Wisdom encourages us to become a blessing.

**Many: We reach out to others, hoping to share the bounty of God's goodness.**

One: Wisdom reminds us to take refuge and find strength.

**Many: God is our wisdom and our strength.**

One: Wisdom helps us to see the intricate web of blessings that fill our lives.

**Many: The Holy Spirit connects us all, allowing every blessing we give to touch the lives of the entire world.**

One: Wisdom encourages us to befriend life.

**Many: With Christ's help, we radically accept life as it is.**

One: Wisdom is from God, embodied in Christ, whispered gently by the Holy Spirit, and it is calling to us...

**Many: Calling to us to restore the world.**

#### OPENING HYMN #73

"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"

*(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 Wisdom of God, you call to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with you and with one another. You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods, where human pain and possibility are most urgent. You call to us from our sacred stories,**

**where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort. Guide us, we pray,  
on an adventure of hope, and help us see with your eyes the ways which  
lead to beloved community where Christ Jesus is at the center. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Proverbs 31:10-31 NRSV

A capable wife who can find?  
She is far more precious than jewels.  
The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
and he will have no lack of gain.  
She does him good, and not harm,  
all the days of her life.  
She seeks wool and flax,  
and works with willing hands.  
She is like the ships of the merchant,  
she brings her food from far away.  
She rises while it is still night  
and provides food for her household  
and tasks for her servant-girls.  
She considers a field and buys it;  
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.  
She girds herself with strength,  
and makes her arms strong.  
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.  
Her lamp does not go out at night.  
She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her hands hold the spindle.  
She opens her hand to the poor,  
and reaches out her hands to the needy.  
She is not afraid for her household when it snows,  
for all her household are clothed in crimson.  
She makes herself coverings;  
her clothing is fine linen and purple.  
Her husband is known in the city gates,  
taking his seat among the elders of the land.  
She makes linen garments and sells them;  
she supplies the merchant with sashes.  
Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.  
She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
She looks well to the ways of her household,  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children rise up and call her happy;

her husband too, and he praises her:  
“Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.”  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.  
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

James 3:13-4:3 and 4:7-8 NRSV

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures...

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

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

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

## HOMILY

“Restoring the World”

(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

“The Gift of Love”

(Chuck Byam)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

*(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](mailto: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 #436

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

*(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

“Oh What a Beautiful Morning Adaptation”

*(Chuck Byam)*

## CREDITS

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- **Oh What a Beautiful Morning**  
(Adaptation written by Chuck Byam, 2021)

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## SUNDAY ROSTER

**Liturgist** – Bil Turner

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

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

**Virtual Coordinator** – Kelly Stuible-Clark

**Sound Board** – Charlynn Walker

**Pianist/Organist** – Chuck Byam

**Hymn Singer** –

**Usher** – Chris Cypher

**Greeter** – Sue Sackett

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# Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.  
 2 O - pen your-self to the song. O - pen your-self to the song.  
 3 O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one.  
 4 Don't be a - fraid of some change. Don't be a - fraid of some change.  
 5 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C F Em7 A7 Dm7sus4 Dm7 G7 C

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joyce, and come in.

This song, based on Psalm 100, became popular in the 1970s in

Tune: ENTER, REJOICE 7.7.8.7.



# God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.