



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“The Gift of God’s Presence”

April 3, 2022

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
Sue Sackett & Ben Sackett, Custodian
Rev Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Chuck Byam, Organist & Accompanist
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Nicole Finney, Child Care
David Wu, Video Operator

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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

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”
(Chancel Choir)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Family of God, we gather as who we are, and we bring what we have.

Many: Let us encounter God among us.

One: We bring joy and sorrow, hope and despair, resources and need, certainty and questions.

Many: Let us engage with our God who is among us.

One: In this physical and virtual space, we meet the One who parts seas, creates paths, and changes circumstances.

Many: Let us find courage, strength and love in our God who is among us.

OPENING HYMN #202

“Oh God How We Have Wandered”

GATHERING PRAYER

One: Please join me in prayer:

Many: Holy One, we rejoice in your presence. We acknowledge that you have done great things in our history, in our present, and in our future. Our hope rests in you. We rejoice in confidence that you abide in our dry spaces and in our flowing streams. Lead us through troubling times and empower us to continue to press toward you and your way. In our worship, part our lips in praise, open our hearts in love, and quench our spirits in worship. Amen.

ANTHEM

“River in Judea”
(Chancel Choir)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

PSALM

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-3 & 6-9 NRSV (671-672)

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

Seek our God while They may be found,
call upon God while They are near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to God, that God may have mercy on them,
for God will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says our God.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Here, I am Lord”

**Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.**

HOMILY

“The Gift of God’s Presence”
(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“My Jesus I Love Thee”
(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: Please join me in the prayer of dedication.

Many: Anoint these gifts, Generous God, that they may fulfill their purpose. Through the pouring out of our financial resources, unique passions and skills, and faithful companionship with our community, may we impart hope, render joy, and participate in your kingdom. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

One: All of us, through word or deed, through action or inaction, do things that damage our relationships with one another and with God. Confessing those things to God is the first step towards reconciliation, towards wholeness of self and community. Understanding this, you are invited to silently share your confession with God.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to you, O Lord.
Blessed is the one who comes,
Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING AND LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION SONG

One Communion
(Linda Gooley & Mary Prevost)

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: We thank you, God, for inviting us to, and nurturing us at, this table. Strengthen our faith and hope, and increase our love for one another, that we may leave this place better able to serve you, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #602 v. 1, 2, 3

"Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face"

(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

“Communion Song”
(Chuck Byam)

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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Ron Erskine

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – David Wee

Sound Board - Karen Walker

Choir Director - Brandon Frost

Pianist/Organist – Chuck Byam

Hymn Singer – Choir

Usher – Lisa Reed

Greeter – Pat Reed

O God, How We Have Wandered

202

Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.

Luke 15:11-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-20

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
Com - pas - sion-ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic-ing bring,
Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
In glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

Horatius Bonar, 1855; alt.

1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
 2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,
 3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 4 Too soon we rise; the sym - bols dis - ap - pear;
 5 We have no help but yours, nor do we need

here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
 here share the cup, the gra - cious gift of heaven;
 this is the heaven - ly ta - ble spread a - new;
 the meal, but not your love, is past and gone.
 an - oth - er strength than yours to lean up - on.

Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,
 Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
 Here let me feast, and, feast - ing, still pro - long
 This joy - ful feast con - firms that you are here,
 It is e - nough, O Lord, e - nough in - deed;

And all my wea - ri - ness up - on you lean.
 here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.
 the brief, bright hour to - geth - er here with you.
 now and for - ev - er, as our shield and sun.
 our faith is in your might, your might a - lone.

Horatius Bonar, a founder of the Free Church of Scotland and author of 600 hymns, wrote this hymn at his brother's request. It was first printed in a leaflet for the author's church, St. Andrew's Free Church in Greenock, Scotland.

Tune: MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10.
 Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870
 Alternate tune: LANGRAN