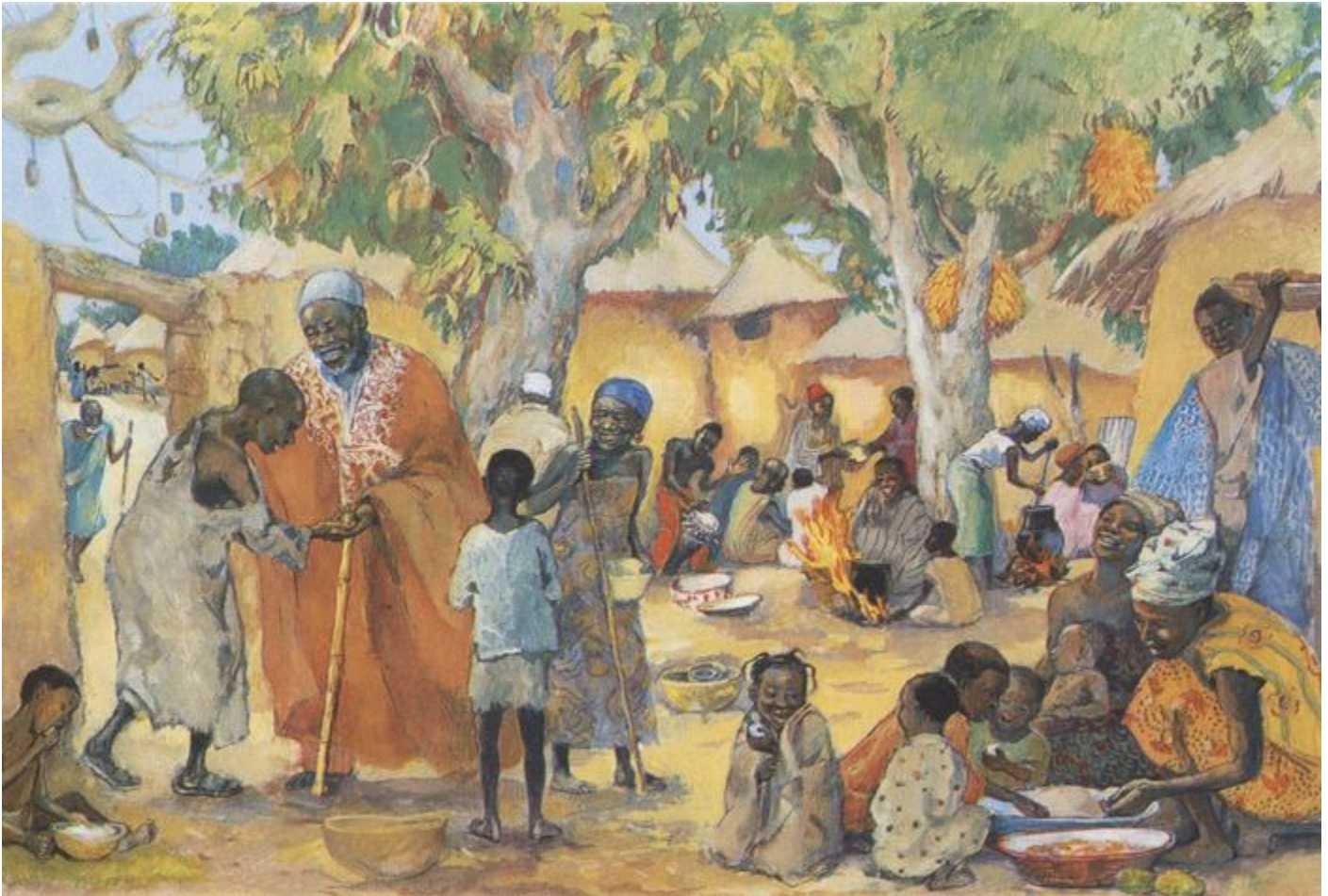


First Congregational United Church of Christ



**The Great Banquet
August 14, 2022
10:30 a.m. Service**

*Believing that every person is a child of God invested with worth and dignity,
and believing that every person is a recipient of God's grace,
we at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Ledge,
aspire to mirror God's unconditional love by declaring that we are
an Open and Affirming congregation.*

Taken from Our Church's Open and Affirming 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

Carol Orsborn, Bell Choir Director
Chuck Byam, Organist & Accompanist
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Nicole Finney, Child Care
David Wee, Video Operator

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • grandledgeucc.org

• 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, and an asterisk (*) indicates to please stand, as you are able. As you enter the sanctuary, please share your offering in the offering plate by the door. We ask that you social distance from others not in your family or pod.*

Our hymns are not announced, but are printed in the bulletin, so feel free to locate them ahead of time. Helpful worship notes and information on the church can be found in the brochure by the hymnals.

Guests and visitors – a special welcome! Please fill out a “Welcome” card (in the pew pocket) and put it in the offering plate so we may send you a small gift.

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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

Grand Ringers

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In a world uprooted at every turn, come beloved of God for replanting.

Many: **Our hope and weariness are mixed together, yet we come, trusting ancient promises.**

One: The Holy One who led the people out of Egypt, yearns to lead us, too.

Many: **God will not rest until all are rerooted, restored, and renewed for rejoicing.**

One: Let us be joined to God’s song of justice, bearing beauty into the life of the world.

Many: **May our lives be formed for faithfulness by the One who is always faithful.**

*OPENING HYMN #522 v. 1, 3, 4

“I Love To Tell the Story”

*GATHERING PRAYER

One: Please join me in prayer:

Many: **Loving and Gracious God, form a new song of soul within us. Take every fragment of our lives and fashion a new creation. Plant us deep in the soil of Your love, that your living water might rise in us, forming a fruit of possibility unimaginable on our own. Grant us grace to trust your promised presence already meeting us here, now, and always. By this, gift us with a new strength of heart for whatever Your love demands. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Amazing Grace”
(The Grand Ringers)

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

Isaiah 5:1-7 NRSV (621)

I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?
And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 14:12-24 NRSV (952)

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Breathe On Me Breath of God"

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.**

HOMILY

"The Great Banquet"
(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"Take My Life and Let It Be"
(Chuck Byam)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(After each prayers, please say together, "God, Hear our prayers")

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.]

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom 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 Kingdom, and the power and the glory 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))

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Please join me in the prayer of dedication.

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 #502 v. 1, 4, 5

“Dear God, Embracing Humankind”

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful” (sung twice)

**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.**

BELLS/CHIMES

Grand Ringers

POSTLUDE

“His Name is Wonderful”
(Chuck Byam)

*The image on the cover of the bulletin is “The Poor Invited to the Feast.” The Vanderbilt library webpage includes this information about the piece: JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

In this painting, we see a generous, wealthy host, choosing to hold a feast for the poor. A large group of disenfranchised people are gathered together eating, talking, and enjoying one another’s company. The faces of the host and all his guests show expressions of joy and gratitude. This scene reveals a community who took Jesus’ instructions from Luke 14:13 seriously: “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.” Followers of Jesus are to remain humble, expecting nothing in return for the Christ-like love we are called to share with the world.

CREDITS

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- **Song for the Vineyard: Service Prayers for the 10th Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 15** were written by Rev. Dr. Dave Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ. Every Time I Feel the Spirit
- **The Poor Invited to the Feast**
*JESUS MAFA. The poor invited to the feast, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48397> [retrieved August 6, 2022]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).*
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- **In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful**
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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Lisa Reed

Guest Musicians–Carol Orsborn, Chuck Byam, Anita Calcagno, Susan Elbin, Greg Elbin

Fresh Perspective – Greg Elbin

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – David Wee

Sound Board - Charlynn Walker

Choir Director - Brandon Frost

Pianist/Organist – Chuck Byam

Crucifer – Karen Walker

Usher – Cheryl Mattson

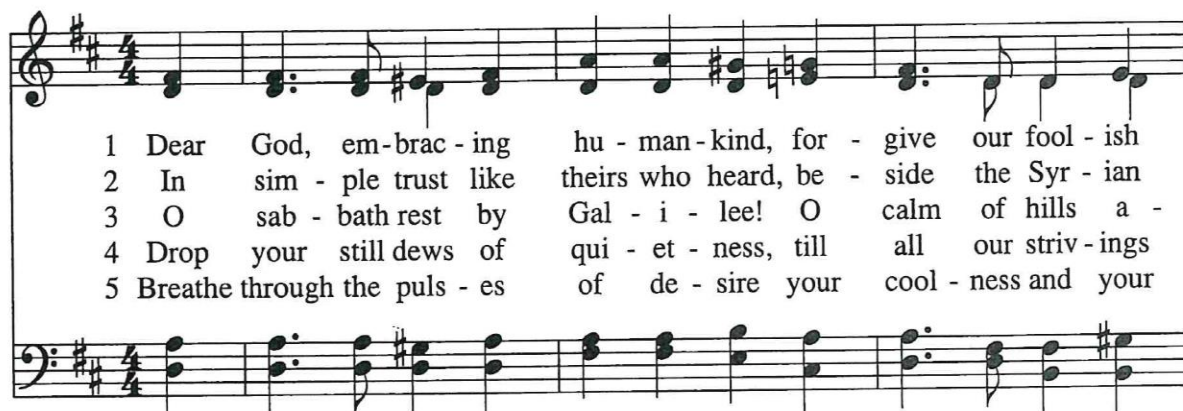
Greeter – Karen Walker

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

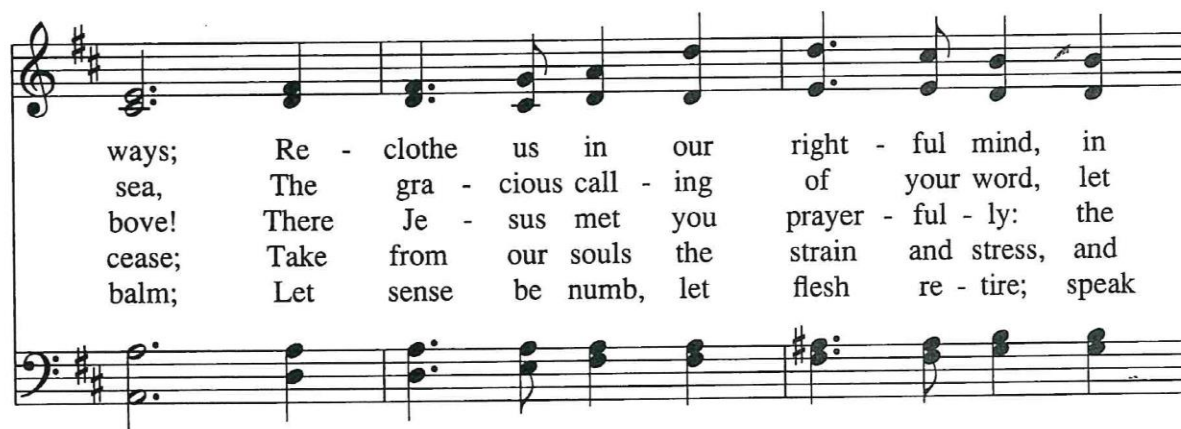
502

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.

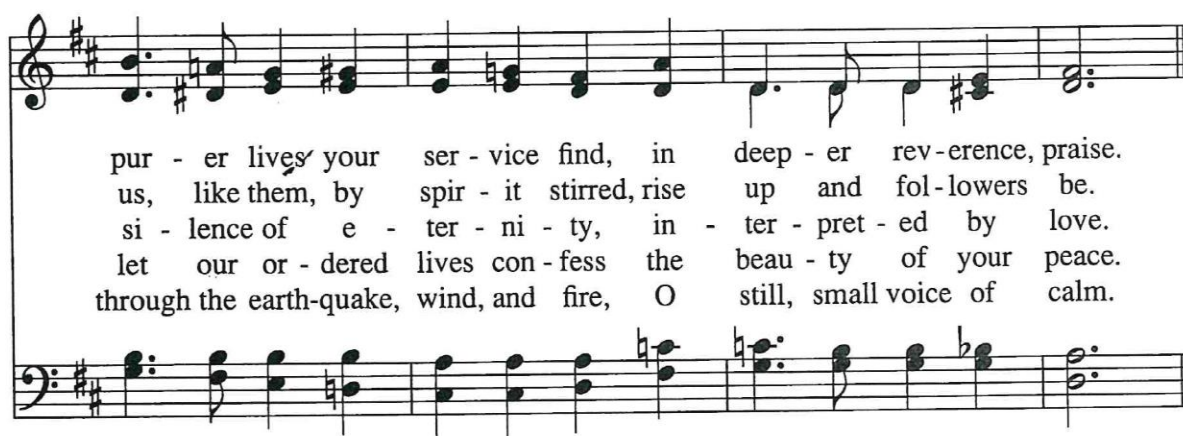
Mark 1:16-20; Matt. 14:22-23; 1 Kings 19:11-12



1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man-kind, for - give our fool - ish
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -
 4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
 5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your



ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
 sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let
 bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the
 cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and
 balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.
 through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

In his poem "The Brewing of Soma," New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier compares frenzied ecstasies of a sect of Hindu priests to the noisy Christian revivals he found so offensive. This hymn of quiet worship is from the final stanzas.

Tune: REST 8.6.8.8.6.
 Frederick C. Maker, 1887
 Alternate tune: REPTON
 (repeating last phrase)

I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

You Can't Get To Heaven on Roller Skates

Oh, you can't get to heaven (Oh, you can't get to heaven)

On roller skates (On roller skates)

‘Cause you'll roll right by (‘Cause you'll roll right by)

Those pearly gates (Those pearly gates)

Oh, you can't get to heaven on roller skates

‘Cause you'll roll right by those pearly gates

I ain't gonna grieve my Lord no more!

Oh, you can't get to heaven (Oh, you can't get to heaven)

On a dinosaur (On a dinosaur)

‘Cause a dinosaur (‘Cause a dinosaur)

Will stop and roar (Will stop and roar)

Oh, you can't get to heaven on a dinosaur

‘Cause a dinosaur will stop and roar

I ain't gonna grieve my Lord no more!

If you get there (If you get there)

Before I do (Before I do)

Please drill a hole (Please drill a hole)

And pull me through (And pull me through)

If you get there before I do, drill a hole and pull me through

I ain't gonna grieve my Lord no more!