

First Congregational United Church of Christ
November 20, 2022



Photo by Olga Subach

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Linda Noble

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Bob Carter

Liturgist: Barb Bottger

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship

People who love turkey: Listen! Jesus is standing at the door! Help us to be earnest, and repent. If we open the door Jesus will come to us Knowing that he only disciplines and reproveth those whom he loves.

People who love stuffing: Jesus wants to eat with us, to invite us once again to the table.

People who love cranberry sauce: May we hear the call, may open the door, may accept the invitation to eat with our Savior.

People who love pumpkin pie: Lord, we hear you knocking on the doors of this church too. May this time of worship be an opening of our hearts, of our community to you. We desire deeply to be with you and for you to be with us as experienced in the fellowship of your table. Tune our ear to hear more deeply what the Spirit is saying to the churches and to our church. Amen

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

Ah! Sun-flower

BY WILLIAM BLAKE

Ah Sun-flower! weary of time,
Who contest the steps of the Sun:
Seeking after that sweet golden clime
Where the travelers journey is done.

Where the Youth pined away with desire,
And the pale Virgin shrouded in snow:
Arise from their graves and aspire,
Where my Sun-flower wishes to go.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture: Revelation 3:14-22

14 "Write this to the angel of the church in Laodicea: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. 15 I know your works. You are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I'm about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 After all, you say, 'I'm rich, and I've grown wealthy, and I don't need a thing.' You don't realize that you are miserable, pathetic, poor, blind, and naked. 18 My advice is that you buy gold from me that has been purified by fire so that you maybe rich, and white clothing to wear so that your nakedness won't be shamefully exposed, and ointment to put on your eyes so that you may see. 19 I correct and discipline those whom I love. So be earnest and change your hearts and lives. 20 Look! I'm standing at the door and knocking. If any hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to be with them, and will have dinner with them, and they will have dinner with me. 21 As for those who emerge victorious, I will allow them to sit with me on my throne, just as I emerged victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 If you

can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Message Jesus knocks to come and eat

Musical Reflections

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father, Mother God, who are 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

Our Time of Giving – Stewardship Moment by John Bottger

Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Closing Hymn #419 Now We Thank All Our God (Words and Music - © OCP

Contributors: NUN DANKET)

1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
In whom his world rejoices;
who from our parents’ arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God
our Maker now be given,
the Christ and Spirit too,
our help in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;

For thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Benediction

Sending Music

Special Meeting November 20 Called by the Board of Directors: Send The MN Conference Resolution on Electrification for consideration by the General Synod Meeting in 2023.

One Agenda Item: We vote to concur in sending the Resolution to the General Synod Agenda Committee for consideration in 2023.

Following worship on Sunday, November 20, 2022 the board seeks the congregation's will in supporting the Minnesota Conference UCC Resolution on Electrification.

We feel this is consistent with our congregation's concern for the future and good stewardship of Creation for all the creatures of Planet Earth. We urge that a quorum (as defined by the Bylaws) attend and vote for this Resolution.

Mission Statement Revision Discussion November 20, 2022

The Taskforce on Revising the Mission Statement invites you, the congregation, to stay for an informal discussion following the vote on the MN Conference Electrification Resolution.

A Mission Statement should be short, memorable, and help to set priorities in making decisions. Our current Mission Statement is overly long, does not necessarily reflect where we are now as a congregation, nor does it successfully help in setting priorities.

Creating a statement must be a total congregational process including the input of every one of you. To that end the subcommittee seeks your suggestions and hopes for a lively, yet respectful, conversation. From these discussions, and more in December and January as needed, we hope to craft a statement that will meet with nearly unanimous approval at the January Annual Meeting.

This is a work in progress. We are offering our current Mission Statement and three others as springboards for discussion.

Please consider: What do you like? What is missing? What fits? Doesn't fit?

Current Mission Statement

First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open, inclusive church that exists to worship God and practice the gospel of Jesus Christ. We welcome all people of goodwill who seek to share the love of God and honor the diversity of Creation in a spirit of tolerance and flexibility. As a Just Peace Church, we invite all who seek the reign of God to join us in

reaching out in healing ministry, working for justice, witnessing for peace, and striving to overcome all forms of oppression. We recognize two Sacraments: Baptism and Communion.

Example 1:

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Seeking Truth.

Celebrating God's Creation.

Working for justice and healing.

Example 2:

United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

Example 3:

Our Vision: That all Creation shall thrive as God intends.

Our Mission: To welcome all, to love all, to seek justice for all, and to care for Creation.

Who We Are: The First Congregational Church (UCC) is a progressive, Open and Affirming, Just Peace church. United in diversity and journeying together, we seek to follow the Way of Jesus of Nazareth, to deepen our faith, and to share God's unconditional love with the world.

We believe that God's word and hope for our lives is continually unfolding—that God is still speaking.

We are committed to weekly worship; concern for one another and God's Creation; and participation in the local, national, and worldwide community. We recognize two sacraments: Baptism and Communion.

The Taskforce: Steve Aldrich, Jenny Delfs, Bruce Tyler, Carol Winter