



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

October 22, 2023

grandmaraisucc.org // (218) 387-2113



“Dancing  
before  
God”

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Partners in Ministry: All who are a part of this church.

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Karina Roth    Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter:    Liturgist:

Greeter: Bruce Tyler    Usher: Gwen Mattice/Bruce Tyler

Coffee-Hour Host: Steve Aldrich

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## Gathering Music

### Words of Welcome

#### Prelude

#### Words to Enter Worship (Based on Psalm 106:1-5)

People who swing dance: If you're happy and you know it clap your hands! If you're happy and you know it clap your hands! If you're happy and you know it, then your face shall surely show it. If you're happy and you know it clap your hands!

People who do the twist: You put your right foot in, you put your right foot out! You put your right foot in and you shake it all about. You do the hokey-pokey, and you turn yourself around! That's what it's all about!

People who like ballet: If you're happy and you know it stomp your feet! If you're happy and you know it stomp your feet! If you're happy and you know it, then your face shall surely show it. If you're happy and you know it stomp your feet!

People who can hip-hop: O Pharoah, Pharoah, O Baby let my people go! UH! Ya, Ya, Ya! O Pharoah, Pharoah, O Baby let my people go! UH! Ya! Ya! Ya! (Twice)

#### Opening Hymn #526 We Are Marching in the Light of God (3 times) ([click here](#))

### Words of Lament

Right now, O LORD, right now there are people who are injured and can't dance, are trapped in a cycle of violence, having no place to fling their arms wide, and too many are being killed. There are wars in Ukraine, in Palestine, and elsewhere around the world, where bodies are violated with bombs, bullets, and deprived of food, water, and medical care. Holy God! Help us turn instruments of death into instruments of life: plows, medical instruments, and musical instruments. Help us heal the injured, free those who are trapped, and shield those whose bodies are harmed and destroyed. Help us honor and protect all bodies, for we and they are your children. Help us to plant peace and justice so all bodies may dance and freely move in your world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Time of Silence

### 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 peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

Dream Variations by Langston Hughes

To fling my arms wide  
In some place of the sun,  
To whirl and to dance  
Till the white day is done.  
Then rest at cool evening  
Beneath a tall tree  
While night comes on gently,  
Dark like me-  
That is my dream!

To fling my arms wide  
In the face of the sun,  
Dance! Whirl! Whirl!  
Till the quick day is done.  
Rest at pale evening...  
A tall, slim tree...  
Night coming tenderly  
Black like me.

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## Passing of the Peace

**Hymn #394** In Christ There is No East or West ([click here](#))

### Scripture Readings

**1st Scripture** Psalm 150 (Common English Bible)

1 Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary!

Praise God in his fortress, the sky!

2 Praise God in his mighty acts!

Praise God as suits his incredible greatness!

3 Praise God with the blast of the ram's horn!

Praise God with lute and lyre!

4 Praise God with drum and dance!

Praise God with strings and pipe!

5 Praise God with loud cymbals!

Praise God with clashing cymbals!

6 Let every living thing praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord

**2nd Scripture** 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; 12-19 (New Revised Standard Version Catholic)

**5** Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. **2** For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The Lord said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel." **3** So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. **4** David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. **5** At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

**6** David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. **2** David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. **3** They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart **4** with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. **5** David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

**12** It was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; **13** and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fattling. **14** David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. **15** So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

**16** As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

**17** They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. **18** When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, **19** and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

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**Children's Message** Move your body

**Choir Anthem**

**Message** Dancing before God

**Musical Reflections**

**Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, Mother God, 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**

**News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community**

**Our Time of Giving**

**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*

**Closing Hymn** Lord of the Dance (insert)

**Benediction**

**Sending Music**

### **Resources**

(hyperlinks available in online version)

- Read about [the response of Global Ministries](#) (UCC & Disciples of Christ) to the Israel-Gaza war, take action to advocate for peace, and read the constantly updated statements of our Global Ministries partners in the region.
- Learn about [the UCC's historic presence and work with partners](#) in Israel-Palestine, projects we support, and mission co-workers who serve there on our behalf.
- Read [resolutions passed by the Minnesota Conference UCC](#) about Israel-Palestine.
- Read [General Synod resolutions](#) of the UCC regarding Israel-Palestine.
- The hospital in Gaza City where an explosion killed hundreds of people on Tuesday night was an established partner of the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ. Learn more about [Al-Ahli Hospital](#) and its ministry of care and healing.



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Opening Hymn #526 We Are Marching in the Light  
of God (3 times)

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, Oo,  
we are marching in the light of God

*South African freedom song; transl. Freedom is Coming, 1984  
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## Hymn #394 In Christ There is No East or West

1. In Christ there is no East or West,  
in Christ no South or North;  
But one community of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
God's service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.
3. In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,  
and neither slave nor free;  
For men and women live in God,  
and all are kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both East and West,  
in Christ meet South and North;  
One joyous, true community  
throughout the whole wide earth.

*John Oxenham, 1908; alt., st. 3, Laurence Hully Stookey, 1987.  
African American Melody, Arr. Harry T. Burleigh  
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## Hymn - Lord of the Dance

Refrain:

Dance then, wherever you may be  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He!  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He!

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun  
I danced in the Moon & the Stars & the Sun  
I came down from Heaven & I danced on Earth  
At Bethlehem I had my birth:  
(Refrain)

2. I danced for the scribe & the pharisee  
But they would not dance & they wouldn't follow me  
I danced for fishermen, for James & John  
They came with me & the Dance went on:  
(Refrain)

3. I danced on the Sabbath & I cured the lame  
The holy people said it was a shame!  
They whipped & they stripped & they hung me high  
And they left me there on a cross to die!  
(Refrain)

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back  
They buried my body & they thought I'd gone  
But I am the Dance & I still go on!  
(Refrain)

5. They cut me down and I leapt up high  
I am the Life that'll never, never die!  
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me -  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He!  
(Refrain)