



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

October 8, 2023

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Donald Giannati

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## 18th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Jazz Players    Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter:    Liturgist: Bruce Tyler

Greeters & Ushers: Chris Silence & Lesaann Foris

Coffee-Hour Host: Gwen Mattice

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## Gathering Music

### Words of Welcome

### Prelude Seventh Heaven

**Gathering Hymn** “When the Morning Stars Sang” (Beckstrand) Bulletin Insert (One-License No. A-738474)

**Confession and Forgiveness (Fanfare for the Forgiven)** *Jazz Service Refrains*  
*Kyrie Jazz Liturgy Book*

### 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.

#### The Goods Of Jazz

*by Roger Singer*

brass  
strong on bold  
holding tight  
stirring life  
into listening  
wanting souls  
as night melts  
city sounds  
into black  
and white  
spreading wide  
like blood spilled

the horn  
of sass  
beats the air  
with fists  
breaking chains  
snapping out notes  
like junk dogs  
burning to bite  
as the sweet  
honey of  
jazz  
delivers loud  
the goods.

### Passing of the Peace

**Canticle of Praise** *Jazz Liturgy Book*

**Psalm 25** *Jazz Liturgy Book*

#### 1st Scripture Matthew 3:4b-14 (New Revised Standard Updated Edition)

4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 9 and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with [c] the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

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**Gospel Acclamation** *Jazz Liturgy Book*

**2nd Scripture** Exodus 20:1-17

**20** Then God spoke all these words:

**2** I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

**3** You must have no other gods before me.

**4** Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. **5** Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the Lord your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents' sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. **6** But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**7** Do not use the Lord your God's name as if it were of no significance; the Lord won't forgive anyone who uses his name that way.

**8** Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. **9** Six days you may work and do all your tasks, **10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Do not do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your animals, or the immigrant who is living with you. **11** Because the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them in six days, but rested on the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

**12** Honor your father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the Lord your God is giving you.

**13** Do not kill.

**14** Do not commit adultery.

**15** Do not steal.

**16** Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

**17** Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's house. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

**Children's Message** Learning the Notes

**Message** Playing the Scales of Faith

**Hymn** "O Strengthen My Soul" *Jazz Service Refrains*

**Great Thanksgiving** *Jazz Liturgy Book*

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

**Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

**Communion**

*Eucharistic Prayer*

The Lord be with you.

**R: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

*continued on next page*

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**R: We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God, whose spirit is with us.

**R: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

For you, Creator God, the valleys laugh and sing and the trees of the field clap their hands. Your earth summons us to break silence and be one with the song of creation.

**R: We give you thanks and praise.**

For you, God of all, the church in its myriad forms and countless languages honors its Savior. Millions upon millions invite us to be one with them in the drama of worship.

**R: We give you thanks and praise.**

**Great Thanksgiving** *Jazz Liturgy Book*

*Eucharistic Prayer*

In heaven, beyond our seeing, the angels and saints are caught up in song. And those we have loved and lost are part of that great company. They call us to be one with the harmony of heaven.

**R: We give you thanks and praise.**

So, gladly, we join our voices to those of earth, sea and sky, in the universal hymn of praise which echoes through time and eternity.

**Holy, Holy, Holy** *Jazz Liturgy Book*

*Eucharistic Prayer*

Among friends gathered around a table...  
As Jesus broke bread, we break this bread.  
As Jesus shared wine we share this cup.  
Risen Christ you see us as we are.

**R: May we become what you are.**

**Communion Hymn Hallelujah** *Jazz Service Refrains*

**Sharing the Bread and Cup**

**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*

**Sending Hymn “Down to Joy”** (Morrison)

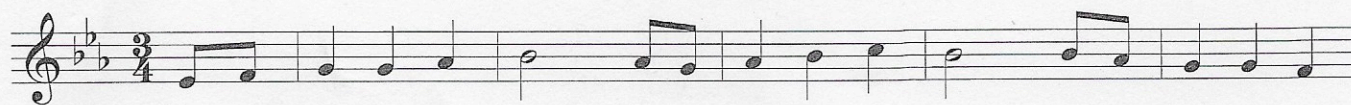
**Benediction**

**Postlude Lady Bird** (Dameron)



# When the Morning Stars Sang

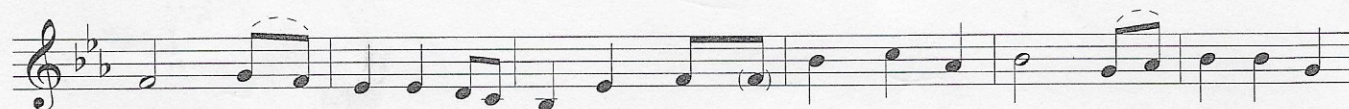
*A Hymn based on Job 38--written to honor Pastor Mark Ditmanson  
and 21 years of ministry to Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Grand Marais, Minnesota*



When the morn - ing stars sang, and the an - gels gave voice, to the God of Cre -  
When the morn - ing stars sang, and the an - gels gave voice we were made in God's  
Can you lift up your voice; join in heav - ens "re - jice!?" Can you bow to the



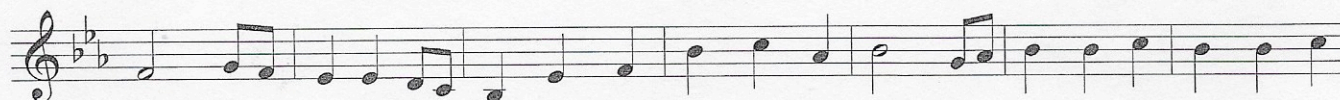
a - tion of each time and place, we lost our a - maze - ment, and ques - tioned, like  
im - age; we were made to re - jice! We were made to be crea - tures who in - ha - bit this  
One who made all things by choice? You crea - tures of God, and cre - a - tion and



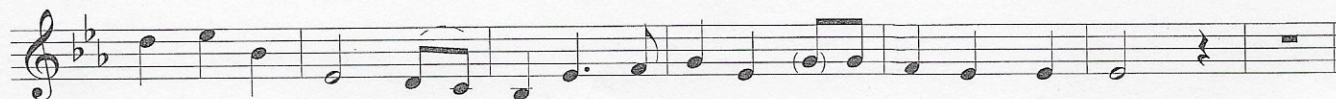
Job, of our place in this myst - ry; of our need to be - hold! As the morn - ing stars  
place, whose lives are an im - print of God's lav - ish grace! As the morn - ing stars  
earth, give glo - ry to God who through Love brought to birth your life, and your



sang, and the heav - ens fore - told. This God of cre - a - tion (sure - ly you  
sang, with the plan - ets in space. This God of cre - a - tion (sure - ly you  
be - ing; your in - fin - ite worth! This God of cre - a - tion (sure - ly you



know!) is the God of the whirl - wind, the God of the snow! The God of the bright - ness, and  
know!) is the God of the rain and the green things that grow. The God of the dawn, and of  
know!) is a lov - er of peace for God's crea - tures be - low. A whirl - wind of grace and for -



God of the dark; of the stars in the heav - ens and the pla - ces they mark.  
dusk, and of night; whose way is the path to the dwell - ing of light.  
give - ness and joy, as the stars in the heav - ens and the an - gels en - joy.

Text: William Beckstrand, b.1962; based on Job 38  
Music: William Beckstrand, b.1962  
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DITMANSON  
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