



First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
March 3, 2024



Photo by Ash Hayes

## Third Sunday in Lent

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

Pastor: **Rev. Enno K. Limvere**

Musician: **Ben Nichols** Choir Director: **Linda Noble**

Peace Candle Lighter: **Jenny Delfs** Liturgist: **Jodi Yuhasey**

Greeter: **Bruce Tyler** Usher: **Duey Yusef**

Time of Fellowship: **Jodi Yuhasey**

[grandmaraisucc.org](http://grandmaraisucc.org) ~ (218) 387-2113  
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**Gathering Music**  
**Words of Welcome**  
**Prelude**

**Words to Enter Worship** Psalter: Psalm 86 (pg. 677)

**Opening Hymn #8** Praise to the Living God ([click here](#))

**Words of Lament**

**Peace Loving God, there are too many powers and principalities that strive to keep humanity divided and telling us that violence and security are the answers, no matter what the question. God of Justice, rise up against the idols of war, greed, and racism. Sweep us the broken to be healed. Empower the poor and least of these. Break the chains of slavery and set the captives free. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**Time of Silence**

**Blessing of the Earth** Blessing of Earth by Christine Valters Painter (in unison)

**Spirit of Abundant Earth,  
Allow me to live in the knowledge that  
I am of the earth, from the earth, and returning to the earth.  
Tree of Life,  
Rise  
up in me,  
Rooting me deeply in the ground  
And inviting me to extend my branches far into the sky.  
Spirit that rises like bread,  
Knead me into the shape you desire for my life  
And allow me to be nourishment for others.  
Blessings of the earth be upon me.  
May its taste, smell, and touch remind me of the abundance of God.**

**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.

**Peace by Sara Teasdale**

Peace flows into me  
As the tide to the pool by the shore;  
It is mine forevermore,  
It ebbs not back like the sea.

I am the pool of blue  
That worships the vivid sky;  
My hopes were heaven-high,  
They are all fulfilled in you.

I am the pool of gold  
When sunset burns and dies, —  
You are my deepening skies,  
Give me your stars to hold.

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## Passing of the Peace

**Hymn #202** O God, How We Have Wandered ([click here](#))

### Scripture Reading – Mark 12:1-17

**12** Then he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the winepress, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went away. **2** When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. **3** But they seized him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. **4** And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. **5** Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. **6** He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally, he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ **7** But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ **8** So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. **9** What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. **10** Have you not read this scripture:

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;

**11** this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes?’”

**12** When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So, they left him and went away.

**13** Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. **14** And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? **15** Should we pay them, or should we not?” But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.” **16** And they brought one. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” They answered, “Caesar’s.” **17** Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at him.

### Children’s Message Tricky Questions

#### Choir

**Message** Rigging the system!

#### Musical Reflections

#### 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**

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News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community  
Our Time of Giving  
Doxology NCH #785

*We give you but you own,  
What-e'er the gift may be,  
All that we have is yours a-lone,  
We give it gratefully.*

**Closing Hymn #542** Born of God, Eternal Savior ([click here](#))  
**Benediction**  
**Sending Music**

# Winter Pride Celebration

Presented by  
Cook County Pride



March 16th 2-8 PM Community Center Log Cabin

2:00 pm: Doors Open. Smoothie's available, sponsored by Shook Smoothies.

3:00 pm: Drag Queen Story Hour, presented by That Queer Isa, sponsored by Cook County Pride.

4:00 pm: Arts, Crafts and board games sponsored by Cook County YMCA

5:00 pm: Advocacy and Allyship Presentation, sponsored by Outfront MN.

6:00 pm: Dinner served, Vegan and Gluten Free, sponsored by Angry Trout Cafe.



This event is sponsored by the First Congregational United Church of Christ

Can't make the event, but still want to support Cook County Pride?  
Contact Ben Nichols at [benjaminnichols13@gmail.com](mailto:benjaminnichols13@gmail.com)

## Opening Hymn #8 Praise to the Living God

1. Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,  
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;  
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,  
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

2. Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,  
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;  
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal,  
Till humankind stood on earth, as living, thinking souls.

3. Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,  
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.  
God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;  
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

4. Praise to the living God, around, within, above,  
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.  
In these tumultuous day, so full of hope and strife,  
May we bear witness to the Way, O source and Goal of life.

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## Hymn #202 O God, How We Have Wandered

1. O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;  
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.  
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,  
As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.

2. And now at length discerning the evil that we do,  
By faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.  
In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,  
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

3. O God of all the living, both banished and restored,  
Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.  
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

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## Closing Hymn #542 **Born of God, Eternal Savior**

1. Born of God, Eternal Savior, source of life, of truth and grace,  
Human One, whose birth incarnate hallows all our human race,  
Come again, in all your glory; come to us, inspire and lead;  
Fill us with your loving kindness; heal our wrongs, and help our need.

2. Christ, as you have lived for others, so may we for others live;  
Freely have your gifts been granted, freely may your servants give.  
All the wealth that we may gather is for use in causes just.  
We are stewards of the bounty loaned to us in solemn trust.

3. Come, O Christ, and reign among us, granting love and joy and peace;  
Hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.  
By your patient years of toiling, by your silent hours of pain,  
Quench our fevered thirst for pleasure, shame our selfish greed for gain.

4. See the Christlike host advancing, high and lowly, great and small,  
Linked in bonds of common service, answering the Savior's call.  
Jesus Christ, we hear your pleading that your people should be one.  
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: here on earth, your will be done.

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