



First Congregational United Church of Christ May 4, 2024

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Ministers: **All who are a part of this church**

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

Musician: **Chandler Litterst** Choir Director: **Ann Russ**

Peace Candle Lighter: **Barbara Chiles** Liturgist: **Maurice Zimmer**

Greeter: **Tom Yuhasey** Usher: **Gwen Mattice**

Coffee-Hour Host: **Maurice Zimmer** Tech Operator: **Nine McCune**

Video Operation: **Steve Aldrich**

grandmaraisucc.org ~ (218) 387-2113

300 West 2nd Street, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Gathering Music
Words of Welcome
Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (based upon Psalm 98)

One: Sing to the LORD a new song, because of the wonderful things that are done. God's strong hand and holy arm have won the victory!

Many: **The LORD has made liberation widely known; revealed in righteousness in the eyes of all nations. God has remembered loyal love and faithfulness to the house of Israel, every corner of the earth has seen God's liberation.**

One: Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth! Be happy! Rejoice out loud! Sing your praises!

Many: **Sing your praises to the LORD with the mandolin – with the guitar and the sound of music. With trumpets and a horn blast, shout triumphantly before the LORD.**

One: Let the sea and everything in it roar; the world and all its inhabitants too.

Many: **Let the rivers clap their hands; let the mountains rejoice out loud altogether before the LORD because God is coming to establish justice on the earth! God will establish justice in the world rightly; he will establish justice among all people fairly.**

Opening Hymn The Body of Christ ([Click Here](#))

Words of Lament

God of love and joy, there is not enough love shown in the world. The fruits of the Spirit are not always seen: goodness, kindness, patience, faithfulness, self-control, love, joy, peace, and gentleness with the roots down in our soul. If we want to be happy, and make others happy to, help us show the love of Jesus and grow Holy Spirit fruit. 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.

Analysis of Baseball

BY MAY SWENSON

It's about	Ball fits
the ball,	mitt, but
the bat,	not all
and the mitt.	the time.
Ball hits	Sometimes
bat, or it	ball gets hit
hits mitt.	(pow) when bat
Bat doesn't	meets it,
hit ball,	and sails
bat meets it.	to a place
Ball bounces	where mitt



off bat, flies
air, or thuds
ground (dud)
or it
fits mitt.

Bat waits
for ball
to mate.
Ball hates
to take bat's
bait. Ball
flirts, bat's
late, don't
keep the date.
Ball goes in
(thwack) to mitt,
and goes out
(thwack) back
to mitt.

has to quit
in disgrace.
That's about
the bases
loaded,
about 40,000
fans exploded.

It's about
the ball,
the bat,
the mitt,
the bases
and the fans.
It's done
on a diamond,
and for fun.
It's about
home, and it's
about run.



Passing of the Peace

Hymn #247 My Shepherd is the Living God [\(Click Here\)](#)

Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Common English Bible)

13 If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I'm a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains, but I don't have love, I'm nothing. 3 If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever.

4 Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, 5 it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, 6 it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. 7 Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails.

As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end. As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end. 9 We know in part and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, what is partial will be brought to an end. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now that I have become a man, I've put an end to childish things. 12 Now we see a reflection in a mirror; then we will see face-to-face. Now I know partially, but then I will know completely in the same way that I have been completely known. 13 Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

Children's Message Is not arrogant, boastful, or rude...

Choir

Message Home Run

Musical Reflections

Confirmation of Elliot Zimmer

Confirmation: Affirmation of Baptism

Invitation

We invite those to come forward those who wish to affirm their baptism by being confirmed.

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. Elliot has found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study, he has been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence his covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. Elliot is here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Sentences

You are no longer a stranger and sojourner, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Questions of the Candidates

Elliot,

Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

I do.

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? **I do.**

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the world the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able? **I promise with the help of God.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow in Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world? **I promise with the help of God.**

Affirmation of Faith (All invited to respond)

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God? **I believe in God**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Presentation of Faith Statement

Prayer of the Candidate (Elliot and Family)

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen.

Prayers of the Congregation (All invited to respond)

Almighty God, who in baptism received this your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministries in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Act of Confirmation

O God, in the grace of Jesus Christ you have accepted these your servant through the water of baptism. Nourish in him the power of your Holy Spirit that he may serve you in the world.

Prayer of Confirmation

We rejoice, O merciful God, with this confirmand and his family in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm his baptism. Help them to live not just for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

Address

By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Question about Participation

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world? **I promise, with the help of God.**

Welcome (All invited to respond)

Let us, the members of First Congregational express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ:

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of First Congregational United Church of Christ, we extend you the hand of Christian love.

Prayer (All invited to respond)

O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Our Time of Giving

We acknowledge the many ways in which those who support our ministry. Many give the weekly, monthly, or yearly pledges and offerings. Many give of their time and talent in our church and throughout our community. We are grateful for all. Thank you.

Doxology

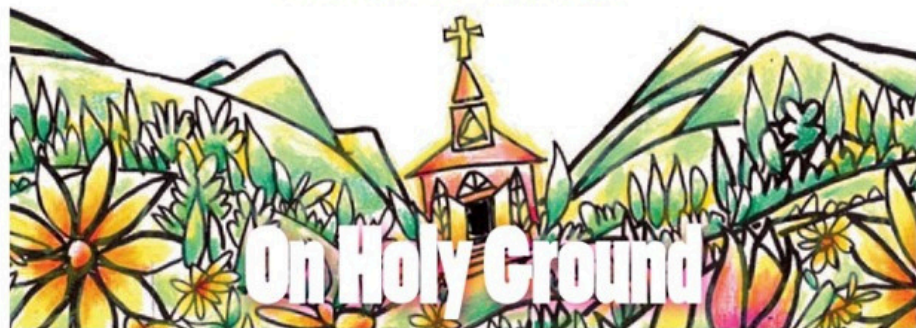
**We give you but yours own,
What-e'er the gift may be,
All that we have is yours a-lone,
We give it grateful-ly.**

Closing Hymn #584 I Am the Light of the World [\(Click Here\)](#).

Benediction

Sending Music

**Through the Strengthen the Church Offering,
we help support the work of conferences and the
national setting as we become a multi-racial/
multi-cultural church.**



Prayer List: Family of Bev Denyes, Sarah, Rhonda Silence, Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Family of Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Congo Ukraine, Sudan, Israel/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

At home and Care Center: Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, and Tom Hedstrom.

Measure of our Faithfulness:

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2024 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2024, showing a need for a yearly income of \$175,834.

After Seventeen weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$57,484.19.

After Seventeen weeks of 2024, the actual donations and income reached \$67,290.38.

-Kevin R. LeVoir, Treasurer

This week at the church

Sunday, May 5

9:30 AM – Choir Practice (SA)

10:30 AM - **6th Sunday of Easter** - On this Sunday we will be confirming our newest member, Eliot Zimmer. We will be reading from 1st Corinthians, chapter 13, which is often used at weddings, but was made for the church. As we grow in our membership, let us remember how we are to get along, "Love is patient, love is kind..."

Fellowship to Follow

Monday, May 6

2:00 PM-6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

3:00 PM-5:00 PM – Food Shelf (LL)

7:00 PM – AI-Anon (FS)

Tuesday, May 7

12:00 PM – Group Music Class (SA)

2:00 PM – Narrative Lectionary Study (ZO)

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

7:00 PM - Planetary Healing: One Being at a Time (FS)

Wednesday, May 8

10:00 AM Cook County Ministerial (Trinity)

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

5:30 PM - PASJ Leaders Meeting

6:00 PM - Sing-along (N)

Thursday, May 9

10:00 AM – Tai Chi (SH)

12:00 PM – Women's AA (FS)

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

3:30-5:30 PM – Cook County Public Health (MR)

5:30 PM - Community Meeting the Architect (SH)

Friday, May 10

7:00 AM – AA (FS)

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch (Java Moose)

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

7:30 PM – AA (FS)

Saturday, May 11

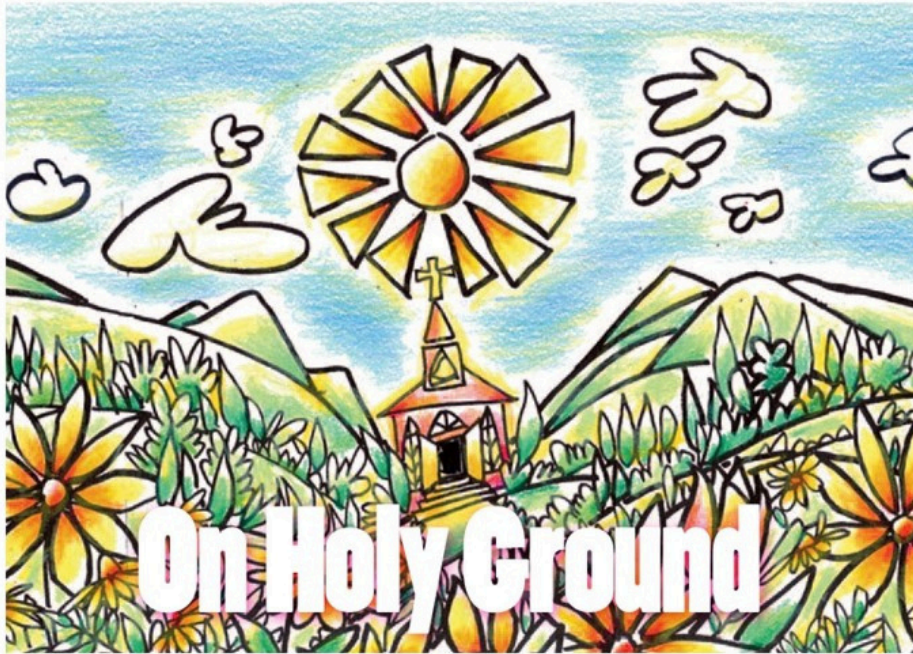
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons

Sunday, May

9:30 AM – Choir Practice (SA)

10:30 AM - **7th Sunday of Easter** – On this Sunday we will be exploring the story of the Sadducees in an argument with Jesus. They challenge Jesus' theology and understanding of resurrection (which they proclaim cannot happen) and they use a woman who married seven brothers to make their point. This isn't a love story, but one of subjugation and ownership. How does Jesus answer this and how do we view this today?

Fellowship to Follow



Pride in Texas

Through the Strengthen the Church Offering, people across the United Church of Christ support the formation of new congregations and the renewal of existing ones, fund new programs for youth and young adults and sponsor leadership development for the whole church.

Faith Church UCC in New Braunfels, TX, received a CASA New and Renewing Church Grant made possible by the Strengthen the Church Offering. The congregation felt called to reach out and support the LGBTQIA Community in their region. They began by hosting the area's first Interfaith Pride Worship Service and later hosted a Drag for a Cause fundraiser for local youth living in an emergency shelter. The public witness of Faith Church UCC rallied the local progressive community.

Before the grant, Faith Church took a "quiet" approach to their community. They did good work, like starting a food pantry, but avoided public stances On Holy Ground Pride in Texas on controversial issues. The grant encouraged the congregation to think beyond their church walls. The congregation began by "coming out" about its values, welcoming people into its congregation and going beyond its wall to share its inclusive faith.

The church faces backlash for its courageous stances. "We received over 1800 negative messages, including threats, when we held Drag for a Cause," Rev. Dr. Carla Cheatham noted. The threats were scary. "But supporters also showed up and outnumbered the hate without returning any evil or malice in their direction. It was a peaceful, loving, powerful event!"

Faith Church UCC became the hub of progressive people in New Braunfels. "We had 13 people join the church the month following the event, and every week, we still hear from members of the progressive, marginalized, and disenfranchised people impacted by our taking a stand."

The Strengthen the Church Offering, helps congregations like Faith Church UCC with renewal initiatives. Together, through this offering, we help congregations live into our call to be a multicultural/multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement.

Opening Hymn The Body of Christ

Chorus:

**When we grow together, when we move with each other,
the body of Christ are we.**

**We each have a part, we each are a member,
the body of Christ are we.**

Verse 1:

**We are born to hear, born to see, born to be a child of God,
We are born to touch, born to walk, upon God's path we all will trod.**

Verse 2:

**There are different gifts, different works, but given by the Spirit from
above,
towards one goal, one common purpose, so serve our God with all
our love.**

Verse 3:

**God has arranged us in, one body, indispensable all are we.
If one is honored or one suffers, we share it together a family.**

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[Go Back to Bulletin](#)



Middle Hymn My Shepherd is the Living God

- 1. My shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need;
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed.
You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,
And lead me for your mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.**
- 2. When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay
You stand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.**
- 3. the sure provisions of my God attend me attend me all my days.
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others come and go,
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.**

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549 and Isaac Watts, 1719
Tune : CONSOLATION C.M.D.
One-License No. A-738474

[Go Back to Bulletin](#)



**sacred
re-imagining**

Closing Hymn: I Am the Light of the World

Refrain:

I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery, of what you
were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone;
When the sages and the shepherds
have found their way home,
the work of Christmas has begun.
2. To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed hungry people warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below, the sky above.
3. To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see all God's children everywhere.
4. To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
to Sing the colors of the earth.

Jim Strathdee, rev.1981

Tune: Light of the World irr.

One-License No. A-738474

[Go Back to Bulletin](#)

