



AUGUST 7, 2022

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Get to Know You Question” for Sunday, August 14th: Where is your favorite place to unwind?

Regathering/Recommitment Service on Sunday, September 11th! More details to come!

# Welcome to First Congregational Church

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

August 7, 2022

**\*Please stand if you are able**

## Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Le chabot (trad. French)

Annie

## Call to Worship

God knows us and our hungers. God loves us like a father and nurtures us like a mother. God draws us to each other and claims us as the people of God.

**Knowing this, let us worship God!**

Hymn #11

"Bring Many Names"

Bring many names, beautiful and good; celebrate in parable and story,  
holiness in glory, living, loving God: hail and hosanna, bring many names.

Strong mother God, working night and day, planning all the wonders of creation,  
setting each equation, genius at play: hail and hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child, feeling all the strains of human living,  
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled: hail and hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care, calmly piercing evil's new disguises,  
glad of new surprises, wiser than despair: hail and hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager on the move, Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,  
crying out for justice, giving all you have; hail and hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known, joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home: hail and hosanna, great, living God!

Remembering Shelley Huntton with prayer

**Holy God, whose ways are not our ways and whose thoughts are not our thoughts,  
grant that your Holy Spirit may intercede with sighs too deep for human words.  
Heal our wounded hearts made heavy by our sorrow. Through the veil of our tears  
and the silence of our emptiness, assure us again that ear has not heard, nor eye  
seen, or human imagination envisioned, what you have prepared for those who love  
you; through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead. Amen.**

(UCC Book of Worship)

Confession of Sin

**Almighty God, we come to you this day understanding that we look down our noses at others who clearly fall short of our expectations. We do not remove the log in our own eye when we might judge others by the color of their skin, or the ways they live, or decisions others might make. Forgive us Lord, and help us to understand that we do not even always make good decisions for ourselves, never mind others. Forgive us for our failure to understand that we can not keep you in a box thinking we know the way you think or work. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.**

Moment of Silence

Assurance of Pardon

The Good News is that God is love and judges with steadfast love. May we grow in the understanding that you are loved always, as are all whom you would say are not worthy. So let go of your judgments! Behold all others with God's lenses of love. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Act of Praise (Gloria Patri) #759

**Glory to God the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Here now Psalm 28

**8** Don't turn a deaf ear  
when I call you, God.

If all I get from you is  
deafening silence,

I'd be better off  
in the Black Hole.

**2** I'm letting you know what I need,  
calling out for help

And lifting my arms  
toward your inner sanctuary.

**3-4** Don't shove me into  
the same jail cell with those crooks,

With those who are  
full-time employees of evil.

They talk a good line of "peace,"  
then moonlight for the Devil.

Pay them back for what they've done,  
for how bad they've been.

Pay them back for their long hours  
in the Devil's workshop;

Then cap it with a huge bonus.

<sup>5</sup> Because they have no idea how God works  
or what he is up to,  
God will smash them to smithereens  
and walk away from the ruins.

<sup>6-7</sup> Blessed be God—  
he heard me praying.  
He proved he's on my side;  
I've thrown my lot in with him.  
Now I'm jumping for joy,  
and shouting and singing my thanks to him.

<sup>8-9</sup> God is all strength for his people,  
ample refuge for his chosen leader;  
Save your people  
and bless your heritage.  
Care for them;  
carry them like a good shepherd.

The Message Copyright 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson

Here ends the Psalter Lesson. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 12:32-40 NRSV

<sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Watchful Slaves

<sup>35</sup> "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he <sup>[a]</sup> would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

## Hymn #418

## "My Faith It is an Oaken Staff"

My faith, it is an oaken staff, the trav'ler's well-loved aid;  
 My faith, it is a song of trust, sustains me undismayed.  
 I'll travel on, and still be stirred by silent thought or social word;  
 By all my perils undeterred, a pilgrim unafraid.

My guide is Jesus Christ whose steps, when travelers have trod,  
 Whether beneath was flinty rock or yielding grassy sod,  
 They carried on, their joy unspent, through pain and trial they onward went,  
 Unstayed by pleasure, still they bent their zealous course to God.

My faith, it is an oaken staff, O let me on it lean!  
 My faith provide the ground of hope, supports a purpose keen.  
 Your Spirit, God, upon me send, that I may be what you intend.  
 With patient courage, we'll contend as radiant saints serene.

## Prayers of the People

Christ, in your Mercy,  
**Receive our prayers.**

## Pastoral Prayer

## Offertory

## Invitation:

Today our Gospel lesson reminds us how good it is to share our resources. God loves cheerful givers and your sacrifice allows God to bless you and others beyond measure.

**Let us give grateful to be pleasing God this day and bless others with our generosity.**

## Gratitude Music

- A toi la gloire

Annie

## Doxology #780

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise God, all creatures here below;  
 Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

## Prayer of Gratitude

Loving God, we offer our alms:

**God, we delight in sharing our resources with you. We give thanks for your creation and our role in it. May this summer day be a harvest for you of our generosity and spirit in giving back to you, our community, and the world. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

*Sacrament of Communion* (written by Rev Maren Tirabassi)

Christ's invitation is simple –  
Do not be afraid, little flock, even when there is much to fear.  
Find your treasure among God's children  
That where your treasure is, your heart also will be.  
Light all the lamps of love,  
Open the door to those who knock,  
And God will feed you,  
In the middle of the night, at dawn of day,  
And in this Sunday morning place, now.  
Embrace what is unexpected in this hour at our own table.

Words of Remembering  
We remember the Creator –  
Fed the aurora borealis and ocean depths,  
Pterodactyls and diatoms,  
All we see now that grows and breathes,  
All that swims, swarms, slithers,  
All that run, flies, leaps, and loves.

**We remember Jesus Christ  
Played vintner at a wedding feast,  
Told parables that finding hope  
Comes from eating the pig's food,  
And finding community  
From taking the lowest place at table.**

We remember a Passover in Jerusalem  
When Jesus chose bread and wine,  
Common food, food that did not come  
From the death of an animal,  
To prepare for a day of facing the abuse of a tree,  
And explained that there is  
A God-shaped hole in everyone's belly  
And it would be filled with love.

Communion Prayer  
God of feast and fast, birthday party and IV nutrition, who relishes falafel,  
Jambalaya. Pad thai, and celebrates with precious food chosen by those with allergies  
and sensitivities, help us eat with compassion for the earth, delight in many flavors and  
generosity in sharing.  
**Praise to you locavore, Foodie, Eucharist, present in this meal as new life.  
Amen.**

Prayer of our Savior  
Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us:  
**Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And  
forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever  
and ever. Amen.**

Call to the Supper

Serving of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

In thanksgiving for a meal that heals yesterday and empowers tomorrow we pray...

**O Holy One, as we receive this sacrament, we think we eat a gourmet menu, only to discover we are to become your "food trucks" of love and justice, Compassion and courage, in every corner of every city for all of your children who need a meal of hope and healing. Thank you for the sustenance and the call. Amen.**

Hymn #2

"Glory, Glory, Hallelujah"

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

Feel like shouting "Hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down.

Feel like shouting "Hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down.

I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down.

I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down.

I am climbing Jacob's ladder, since I laid my burdens down.

I am climbing Jacob's ladder, since I laid my burdens down.

Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.

Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.

Benediction

Postlude

Ai vis lo loup (trad. French)

Annie