

## Welcome, All Worshipers

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.

If your church conveys that spirit of condescension or judgment, it's likely not a place  
where grace is on tap. ~ Philip Yancey

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(\* indicates when those who are able will stand.)  
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### Prelude

#### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LORI MAYER, LAY READER

(Please complete the Friendship Book as it is passed during announcements; then pass it toward the center aisle.)

\*OPENING HYMN: #349 I COME WITH JOY VERSES 1 & 5.

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Happy are those who are without blame.

All: Blessed are those who walk in God's way.

Leader: Happy are those who are faithful.

All: Blessed are those who seek God.

Leader: We will obey your word, O God.

All: We will praise you forever!

#### \*Opening Prayer

All: Come, Holy One: teach us your ways, lead us in your paths, and guide us on  
our journey. Speak to us your words of life, for you offer us direction and wholeness  
when we hear your voice and follow. You bless us with your love, shower us with  
your grace, and help us grow in faith. We seek you, O God, with all our hearts. Be  
near us this day. Amen.

#### \*The Gloria Patri (sung)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Words: Anonymous, 4<sup>th</sup> Century.

Music: Henry Greatorex. This selection is in the public domain.

FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 5:21-37

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PAT GARANT

SERMON: CHOOSING LIFE NOT HELL

REV. JON GOUGEON

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

\*HYMN: #410 IF YOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE YOU VERSES 1 - 3

(PLEASE BE SEATED.)

### SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING

MINISTER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR  
GRATITUDE TO GOD.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY 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. AMEN.

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.  
WE SHARE FROM OUR ABUNDANCE WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH  
PASSION FOR JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.

\*CLOSING HYMN: #436 GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY VERSES 1, 3, 4

\*Minister: Let us join together and read responsively:

\*All: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those  
who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

#### \*BENEDICTION

Minister: As we journey out into the world, may each of us walk in the light of God's  
ways, striving to be blameless and just. May our hearts be vessels of God's love  
and may the Lord bless us in the land that we are entering. Hold fast. Do not be led  
astray, and may the love of God be yours this day and forevermore. Go now in  
peace. Amen.

\*UNISON RESPONSE: And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the  
breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's  
hand. Amen. Words/music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream obtained from One License #A-739847.

Postlude

*Please join us for Fellowship Time following the service.  
We would love to get to know you better!*

OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY

Lay Reader: Lori Mayer  
Ushers: Lillian Banas and Boris Gerber  
Communion Ministry: Bobbi Zubi  
Counter: Nancy Wedge

Altar Guild: Ashley Wedge  
Greeter: Jim Straley  
Children's Message: Pat Garant  
Fellowship Hosts: Bob & Diana Kelly  
and Pat & Joe Garant

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 12, 2023

*We welcome people as they are,  
share Jesus as He is, and serve  
our community and the world in love.*

## This Week's Calendar

Sunday	February 12	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday	February 13	5:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday	February 16	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

## Announcements

- ❖ Please note - The first two community Lenten observances are scheduled for:
  - February 22, Ash Wednesday -- St. Paul Lutheran Church -- Simple Supper at 5:00 followed by worship service at 6:00.
  - March 1 -- First United Methodist Church -- Simple Supper at 5:00 followed by worship service at 6:00.
- ❖ On a table in the middle hallway are numerous items featuring the church's crest and insignia including shirts, coasters, etc. Please feel free to take what you would like, and leave a donation if possible.
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters each week in the middle hall and to keep the recipients in your prayers.

*SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- Our Sunday worship services are live-streamed, shown on the Internet, as they are happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday services may be seen as part of the live-stream and recording.*

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A unisex handicap-accessible restroom is located through the doors to your left as you exit the sanctuary. A ladies' room is near the Lockwood Street entrance. A men's room is in the middle hallway.  
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*Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus*  
Part-Time Interim Pastor: *Reverend Jon Gougeon*  
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*  
Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*  
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*  
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*  
Live-stream Technician: *Brayden Broad*  
Office hours: 9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday – Thursday  
Phone: (989) 356-1795

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