

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

Who is Jesus – for people living in today? And for you? Most stunning of all, Christians believe that Jesus is still alive, the Spirit of God who accepts us with all our secrets and gradually transforms us into someone more like him. The historians, of course, emphasize Jesus' effect on history, and even the agnostics must admit that no person ever had a greater impact. As a journalist, I see more the personal effect of prisoners and drug addicts transformed, of wealthy people humbled to care for the forsaken, of doctors who forgo comfort to serve the needy. Jesus is God's promise that no matter what we do, we can be forgiven and no matter who we are, we can be transformed. ~Author Phillip Yancey

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

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS **MARILYN KETTLER, LAY READER**
(Please complete the Friendship Book as it is passed during announcements; then pass it toward the center aisle.)

***OPENING HYMN: #400 CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION** VERSES 1-3

*Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is our refuge.

All: We can find peace in God's abiding love.

Leader: When troubles assail us, we call upon the Lord.

All: When joys abound, we call upon the Lord.

Leader: Welcome this day to God's house, one of many dwellings of the Almighty One.

All: We thank you and praise God for his refuge and sanctuary. Amen.

*Opening Prayer

All: Patient and forgiving God, we come to you this day. Remind us that your blessings are poured out in many ways, through many people. Give us the confident faith that reaches beyond our own lives to help others. Forgive us when we sink into our own selfishness and pettiness. For it is in those times that we turn our back on you. Bring us back to you, to the awareness of your eternal love. In Christ's Name, we pray. 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, 4th Century.*

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

FIRST READING: ACTS 7:55-60, 1PETER 2:2-10

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: JOHN 14:1-14

SERMON: LIVING STONES

REV. JON GOUGEON

PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN: #393 BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS** VERSES 1-4

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING (PLEASE BE SEATED)

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 OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR
JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

***CLOSING HYMN: #386 THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION** 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: Go forth in peace. Bring hope to this world. Go forth in love; bring joy to this world. Go forth in the knowledge that God goes with you, loving and guiding your steps. 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

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

Lay Reader: Marilyn Kettler
Ushers: Max & Vicky Lindsay
Communion Ministry: Lynne Stewart

Altar Guild: Nancy Wedge
Greeter: Tammy Veasy
Fellowship Hosts: Bill & Dottie Haase
and Penny Anderson

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 7, 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	May 7	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service and Fellowship Time
Monday	May 8	5:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday	May 11	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Announcements

- ❖ May 7 and 14 are the official Church World Service Blanket Appeal dates. However, donations will be gladly accepted throughout the month of May.
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.

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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