

## 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?** Quite simply, Jesus is the bridge between God and human beings. He came to show us what God is like, and at the same time to show us what we could be like, as God's children. He came to proclaim the radical message that God doesn't just love good people – every religion claims that – but also sinners. The story of the Bible, in a nutshell, is God welcoming home his family, with arms outstretched like the prodigal's father. ~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**

**BILL DEMPSEY, LAY READER**

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

**\*OPENING HYMN: #237 I COME TO THE GARDEN ALONE** ALL VERSES

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: We are gathered in the presence of the risen Christ, who remains with us forever.

**All: When we abide in the love of Christ, love, joy, and peace grow.**

Leader: We are rooted in Christ's love that we may bear these fruits together with all God's people.

**All: With the faithful of every race, tribe, people and nation we sing: Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, and might be to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### \*Opening Prayer

**All: Holy God, the earth is full of your glory, and so we worship you. Our hearts are on fire with the awareness that Christ is with us, and so we thank you. Our fears have been calmed in the bright light of the Resurrection Day, and so we praise you. Do not leave us, we pray. Let us abide forever in the assurance of your love; through the grace of Jesus Christ. 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: PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19 AND 1 PETER 1:17-23**

### ANTHEM

### CHOIR

**SECOND READING: LUKE 24:13-35**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**KAREN BACON**

**SERMON: BREAKING THE BONDS**

**REV. JON GOUGEON**

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

**\*HYMN: #419 NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD** ALL ENGLISH VERSES

#### 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.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: #301 CROWN WITH YOUR RICHEST CROWNS** VERSES 1-3

\*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: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people. Go into the world in peace, declaring the praises of God who has called you out of darkness into wonderful light. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope; through the grace of Jesus Christ. 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: **Bill Dempsey**

Ushers: **Ashley and Nancy Wedge**

Children's Message: **Karen Bacon**

Fellowship Hosts: **Bill & Dottie Haase, Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski and Penny Anderson**

Altar Guild: **Sandy Jarmuzewski**

Greeters: **Jeff & Ann Gerow**

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 23, 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	April 23	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service and Fellowship Time
Thursday	April 27	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

## Announcements

- ❖ Please join us for fellowship upstairs this morning as we celebrate (with cake!) the birthday of Aspen, granddaughter of Gene & Karen Bacon.
- ❖ Trinity Episcopal Church is hosting their annual Victorian Tea on Saturday, May 6, 1:00-2:30pm and 3:00-4:30pm. Please call 989-356-0576 for reservations.
- ❖ Feed A Family needs for April - Kids' cereals, flavored rice or noodles (boxed or bagged), Suddenly Salads, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, and canned soups.
- ❖ 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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