

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

"The point of justice and mercy anyway is not a 'they deserve it' but a 'this is the way God's world should be', and we are called to do those things that truly anticipate the way God's world WILL be." ~N.T. Wright

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

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BORIS GERBER, LAY READER

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

*OPENING HYMN: #436 GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY VERSES 1-3.

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*Call to Worship

Leader: People of God, who do you come to worship?

All: **We come to worship the one true God.**

Leader: How will you worship?

All: **Not with words alone, but by living lives of justice and love.**

Leader: Come, you who belong to God. Come, you who are foolish in the eyes of the world.

All: **Come and abide in God's tent and in God's heart, now and forever.**

*Opening Prayer

All: **Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide in your presence. Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people. Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and radical grace. May this time of worship be authentic and pleasing to you. 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: MICAH 6:1-8

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 5:1-12

SERMON: PLAINLY SPEAKING ABOUT BLESSING

REV. JON GOUGEON

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

*HYMN: #575 O FOR A WORLD VERSES 1-5

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(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: #283 SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD (SUNG TWICE)

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*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: Those who live lives pleasing to God shall not be moved. Go now to embrace the kingdom values – values of love, justice, and truth. Go now with God's blessing, to live those values through the power of our challenging, faithful, loving, empowering God. 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: Boris Gerber
Ushers: Max & Vicky Lindsay
Counters: Dennis & Janet Artley

Altar Guild: Nancy Wedge
Greeter: Marilyn Kettler
Fellowship Hosts: Jeff & Ann Gerow

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 29, 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	January 29	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service and Annual Meeting
Thursday	February 2	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Announcements:

- ❖ Please join us for our Annual Meeting following today's worship service.
- ❖ The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated by Nancy Wedge in memory of her father, John Kreft (January 24, 2013), and in honor of Sonny & Joan Chrzan's 60th wedding anniversary (January 26).
- ❖ 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
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