WELCOME, ALL WORSHIPERS

WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

COMFORT, O COMFORT MY PEOPLE, SAYS YOUR GOD. SPEAK TENDERLY TO JERUSALEM, AND CRY TO HER THAT SHE HAS SERVED HER TERM, THAT HER PENALTY IS PAID, THAT SHE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE LORD'S HAND DOUBLE FOR ALL HER SINS. ISAIAH 40:1-2

(*) INDICATES WHEN THOSE WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND.

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: #151 'TWAS IN THE MOON OF WINTERTIME. (VERSES 1 & 3)

JEAN DE BREBEUF, C. 1643 TRANSL. JESSE EDGAR MIDDLETON, 1926; ALT.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

LEADER: GOD'S WAY IS WONDROUS AND HOLY. **ALL: THOSE WHO LOVE GOD WILL PURSUE IT.**

LEADER: THOUGH THE PATH BE TREACHEROUS AND THE PROGRESS SLOW,

ALL: GOD TAKES US BY THE HAND AND LEADS US TO SAFETY.

*OPENING PRAYER

ALL: ETERNAL GOD, WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR VIGILANT CARE AND PROTECTION. KNOWING THAT YOU ARE WITH US GIVES US A SENSE OF CALM AND ASSURANCE. WHEN CONFRONTED WITH A CRISIS OR AN UNCERTAIN SITUATION, WE FIND SOLACE THAT YOU ARE OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR GOD. 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ISAIAH 40:1-2

SERMON: "ANOTHER NEW YEAR"

REV. DICK HOTCHKIN

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

*Hymn: #154 Go Tell It on the Mountain (Verses 1 - 3)

AFRRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ARR. JOHN W. WORK II, 1907

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

LEADER: 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

*CLOSING HYMN: #164 ARISE YOUR LIGHT HAS COME (VERSES 1 - 4)
RUTH DUCK, 1973

*BENEDICTION: GO IN PEACE. LET THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD OUR GOD BE UPON YOU, AND LINGER IN YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGHOUT THE COMING WEEK, AND FOREVERMORE. 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.

Postlude

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

LAY READER: LORI MAYER

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: JEFF AND ANN GEROW

ALTAR GUILD: NANCY WEDGE

GREETER: PENNY ANDERSON

USHERS: PENNY ANDERSON AND BORIS GERBER

COMMUNION: NANCY WEDGE

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY JANUARY 7 10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
MONDAY JANUARY 8 5:30 PM BOARD MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK ARE GIVEN BY KAY BELAND IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND JOE BELAND.
- ❖ A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FOR ALL THE PRAYERS, KIND WORDS, CARDS & NOTES, AND CHRISTMAS CAROLING DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. ALL OF YOU ARE TRULY A WONDERFUL CHURCH FAMILY! THE FAMILY OF RAY MOORE.
- ❖ THE 2024 GIVING ENVELOPES ARE ON THE USHER TABLE IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY.
- ❖ THE ANNUAL MEETING IS JANUARY 28. ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE.
- ❖ THE 2024 LADIES LUNCHES ARE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 12, FEBRUARY 9, MARCH 8, APRIL 12, MAY 10, AND JUNE 14. THE LADIES WILL PLAN TO MEET AT 11:30 AM AT THE BIG BOY ON RIPLEY BLVD. PLEASE CONTACT BOBBI ZUBI AT 989-657-9996 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. ALL ARE WELCOME!
- ❖ PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK FOR CARE LETTERS AND CARDS IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY.
- ❖ THE AREA FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF: CANNED SPAGHETTIOS, RAVIOLI, MAC AND CHEESE, PACKAGES OF CRACKERS AND PEANUT BUTTER AND/OR CRACKERS AND CHEESE, 4 PACKS OF JELLO OR PUDDING SNACKS, CEREAL, AND POPTARTS.

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 SERVICE MAY BE SEEN AS PART OF THE LIVE-STREAM AND RECORDING.

A UNISEX HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM IS LOCATED THROUGH THE DOORS TO YOUR LEFT AS YOU EXIT THE SANCTUARY.

A UNISEX HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM IS LOCATED THROUGH THE DOORS TO YOUR LEFT AS YOU EXIT THE SANCTUARY A HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE LADIES RESTROOM IS NEAR THE LOCKWOOD STREET ENTRANCE. A MEN'S ROOM IS IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 7, 2024

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



The Rev. Dr. Richard E. Hotchkin, Transition Minister The Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus Organist & Choir Director: Kat Tomaszewski

Office Administrator: Nancy Ross

Treasurer: *Denise Fusina* Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Office hours: 9:00am — 1:00pm, Monday — Thursday

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