

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

"We have been taught that we are justified by faith, not works, and, somehow, the very idea of being a Christian for what we will get out of it is distasteful. But the image of reward in the New Testament doesn't work like that. It isn't a matter of calculation, of doing a difficult job in order to be paid a wage. It is much more like working at a friendship or a marriage in order to enjoy the other person's company more fully. It is more like practicing golf in order that we can go out on the course and hit the ball in the right direction. It is more like learning German or Greek so that we can read some of the great poets and philosophers who wrote in those languages. The "reward" is organically connected to the activity, not some kind of arbitrary pat on the back, otherwise unrelated to the work that was done. And it is always far in abundance beyond any sense of direct or equivalent payment." ~NT Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*

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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: #260 HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES CHRIST RISE ALL VERSES**

*Call to Worship

Leader: Transforming God, you have taken the world's darkness and re-created a world filled with the joy of light and hope.

All: Come and hear the good news of God's love for all creation.

Leader: Restoring God, you have turned defeat into sudden victory, and re-created a world filled with the joy of peace and shalom.

All: Come and hear the good news of God's awesome powers.

Leader: Renewing God, we respond to your mighty deeds with songs of praise, worship and thankful prayers. You alone are God!

All: Come and hear the good news of God's blessings on us all. Glory and honor, power and dominion belong to God alone. Amen.

*Opening Prayer

All: Lord of wondrous light and power, we come to you this day to learn of your will for our lives. Heal our wounds; lift our spirits; give us courage and confidence to boldly serve you in all that we do. 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: PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35 AND 1PETER 4:12-14, 5:6-11

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: JOHN 17:1-11

SERMON: CASTING CARES

PASTOR JON

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

***HYMN: WE ALL ARE ONE IN MISSION (INSERT) VERSES 1, 2, 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.**

***CLOSING HYMN: #257 ALLELUIA! GRACIOUS JESUS! VERSES 1, 2, 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: Family of God, saved by the resurrection of Jesus Christ and baptized into new life, as you leave this place, consider: how will you remain ready to live your testimony of the living hope of the resurrection with your family, your friends, and your neighbors? 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: **Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski**
Counters: **Dennis & Janet Artley**

Altar Guild: **Nancy Wedge**
Greeter: **Ron Borke**
Fellowship Hosts: **Curt & Shari Davis**

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	May 21	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service and Fellowship Time
Thursday	May 25	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Announcements

- ❖ Donations for the Church World Service Blanket Appeal will gladly be accepted throughout the month of May.
- ❖ Calling all members - If you are interested in serving on one of the following committees, please call the church office (989-356-1795), Deborah Butler (989-255-2812) or Sandy Jarmuzewski (989-354-4542):
Budget/Finance, Comstock, Counters, Investment, Missions, Personnel, Property, Stewardship, Worship
- ❖ We would like to acknowledge graduates in our newsletter. Please call the church office by May 25 if you or an immediate family member are graduating from high school, college, grad school or trade school.
- ❖ Feed A Family needs for May - Hamburger/Tuna Helper, flavored rice or noodles packages, kids' cereals, kids' pudding or jello four packs, kids' crackers/cheese or crackers/peanut butter, Cheeze-Its, cookies etc. from Dollar Tree. Extra senior citizens' commodities are always welcome. "*Our sincerest gratitude for your continued support!*" ~Kathy, Salvation Army
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.

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

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.

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.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 21, 2023

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



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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