

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

“Come follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people.” ~ Jesus of Nazareth

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

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BONNIE BARTZ, LAY READER

*OPENING HYMN: #8 – PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD ALL VERSES

*Call to Worship

Leader: We gather this day to worship our God, whose words and ways challenge us.

All: God invites us to lose our selfishness to find ourselves.

Leader: God calls us to be fools in the world to show forth the wisdom of Christ.

All: God urges us to empty ourselves to discover life's fullness.

Leader: God bids us to be obedient to a divine will so we might know true freedom.

All: We come to worship our Creator, seeking to have our faith challenged into growth.

Leader: We root our faith in worship, seeking to find nourishment for our spirits in this growing season of Lent.

*Prayer of Confession

All: God of compassion, you know how we rebel against you. You know how we doubt and fear and hold back, when you call us to freedom and partnership in Christ. God forgive us. Free us by the power of your cross that we may serve you without fear. Grant us your peace through Jesus Christ who was faithful to the end. Amen.

*LENTEN SONG OF PRAISE: AS THE DEER (SEE INSERT)

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SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18; LUKE 13:31-35

ANTHEM: BLESS THE LORD MY SOUL

CHOIR (WITH JUDITH CASE ON FLUTE)

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

*HYMN: #197 – JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS ALL VERSES

SERMON: THE PROMISE, THE JOURNEY

REV. EUGENE BACON

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN: #377 – FORWARD THROUGH THE AGES ALL VERSES

*BENEDICTION

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.

Minister: And the blessing God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. 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.

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Postlude

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

Lay Reader: **Bonnie Bartz**
Altar Guild: **Nancy Wedge**
Fellowship Hosts: **Beth & Megan Petty**
and **Ron & Lynn Borke**

Live Stream Operators: **Jay Kettler**
and **Lynn Borke**
Counter: **Nancy Wedge**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 13, 2022

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	March 13	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday	March 15	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Wednesday	March 16	1:15 p.m.	Mysticism Class
Thursday	March 17	7:00 p.m.	Welcoming Committee Mtg (virtual)

Announcements:

- ❖ Please remember to sign the care letter on the table behind the sanctuary and to keep St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Catholic Church in your prayers.
- ❖ The Welcoming Committee will meet at 7:00pm this Thursday, March 17. The meeting is via Zoom, and all are welcome to attend. To join us just click the "Join Fellowship Hour Here" button on our church webpage. We continue to share ideas for our church's exploration as a welcoming church.
- ❖ It is time to order Easter flowers! Your order may be made in memory of, or in honor of a loved one. Tulips, hyacinths and daffodils cost \$17, and Easter lilies cost \$20. Please call or email the office before March 31 to place your order.
- ❖ This week's Lenten Challenge -- No salty snacks.

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



Transitional Ministers: *Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case (Pastor Emeritus)*
and *Reverend Eugene Bacon*

Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*

Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*

Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*

Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

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

Phone: (989) 356-1795

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Scripture Readings

Genesis 15:1-12

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

Luke 13:31-35

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.' ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'" ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Praise to the Living God

Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

1. Praise to the liv-ing God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myr-iad suns and set the worlds in
flight;
Whose in-fi-nite de-sign, which we but dim-ly see,
Per-vades all na-ture, mak-ing all a cos-mic u-ni-ty.
2. Praise to the liv-ing God, from whom all things de-rive,
Whose Spir-it formed up-on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to e-volve, un-wit-ting, toward God's goal,
Till hu-man-kind stood on the earth, as liv-ing, think-ing souls.
3. Praise to the liv-ing God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our com-mon life, the sa-cred and pro-fane.
God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep with-in the hu-man heart God leads us for-ward still.
4. Praise to the liv-ing God, a-round, with-in, a-bove,
Be-yond the grasp of hu-man mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tu-mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear wit-ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Ps. 84:1-2

Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross

Gal. 6:14; Rev. 22:1-5

Fanny Crosby, 1869; alt.

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross; there a pre - cious foun - tain,
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream, flows from Cal - vary's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me live from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross, be my glo - ry ev - er,

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

"Aunt Fanny" Crosby was an inspiration to people around the world. Blind from infancy, she wrote about 8,000 gospel hymns using more than 200 pseudonyms. William H. Doane, an active layperson and philanthropist in Cincinnati and close personal friend, often collaborated with her.

Tune: NEAR THE CROSS 7.6.7.6. with refrain
 William H. Doane, 1869

Forward through the Ages

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Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; alt.

1. For-ward through the a-ges, in un-bro-ken line,
move the faith-ful spir-its at the call di-vine;
Gifts in dif-fering mea-sure, hearts of one ac-cord,
man-i-fold in ser-vice, one the sure re-ward.
For-ward through the a-ges, in un-bro-ken line,
Move the faith-ful spir-its at the call di-vine.

2. Wide grows God's do-min-ion, reign of love and peace;
for it we must la-bor, till all striv-ings cease.
Proph-ets have pro-claimed it, teach-ers tes-ti-fied,
po-ets sung its glo-ry, mar-tyrs for it died.
For-ward through the a-ges, in un-bro-ken line,
Move the faith-ful spir-its at the call di-vine.

3. Not a-lone we con-quer, not a-lone we fall;
in each loss or tri-umph, lose or tri-umph all.
Bound by God's far pur-pose in one liv-ing whole,
move we on to-geth-er to the shin-ing goal.
For-ward through the a-ges, in un-bro-ken line,
Move the faith-ful spir-its at the call di-vine.

Heb. 11; 1 Cor. 12

As the Deer

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.