

## Welcome, All Worshipers

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

"Fear's a dangerous thing. It can turn your heart black..." ~Bruce Springsteen

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

# Prelude

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BILL DEMPSEY, LAY READER**

**\*OPENING HYMN: #25 O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST ALL VERSES**

**\*Call to Worship** (Based on Psalm 100 CEB)

Leader: Come into God's presence with shouts of exclamation.

**All: Let us worship and serve God with gladness and joy.**

Leader: God is our creator and shepherd, and we are God's own people.

**All: Enter God's presence with thanksgiving and joy.**

Leader: Because the Lord is good and his loyal love lasts forever.

**All: God's faithfulness is to all creation and lasts forever.**

**\*Opening Prayer**

Leader: As we gather this morning, help us to worship by placing You, the Creator and Sustainer, at the center of our lives. Fill us with the knowledge of your presence in our daily lives.

**All: Help us to understand your call to witness every day to your creative love, your guiding presence, and your eternal love. May we, this and every day, reflect your presence in our lives to help in transforming the world, not as we would like it, but as you would have us live by the transforming power of Jesus whom we call the 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 Greatedorex. This selection is in the public domain.

**SCRIPTURE: NUMBERS 21:4-9, JOHN 3:14-15**

## ANTHEM: DEEP, DEEP LOVE

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## CHOIR

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**\*HYMN: #407 HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION VERSES 1 - 4**

## SERMON: TRAPPED IN NOSTALGIA

**REV. ROBERT CASE**

## SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER

**\*CLOSING HYMN: #388 HELP US ACCEPT EACH OTHER 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. *Words and music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from*

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## Postlude

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

Lay Reader: **Bill Dempsey**  
Altar Guild: **Ashley Wedge**  
Fellowship Hosts: **Bonnie Bartz**  
and **Bob & Diana Kelly**

Live Stream Operators: **Jay Kettler**  
and **Lynn Borke**  
Counter: **Boris Gerber**

### This Week's Calendar

Sunday	February 13	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday	February 14	5:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday	February 15	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Wednesday	February 16	1:30 p.m.	Mysticism Class
Thursday	February 17	7:00 p.m.	Welcoming Committee Mtg. (virtual)

### Announcements:

- ❖ Please remember to sign the care letters on the table behind the sanctuary, and to keep Bonnie Watkins and Dolly Zeller in your thoughts and prayers.
- ❖ Rev. Bacon is leading an eight week class on Mysticism (see insert) beginning this Wednesday, February 16. Please call or email the office to register.
- ❖ The Welcoming Committee is meeting at 7:00pm this Thursday, February 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.

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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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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 13, 2022

*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

Email: [officeuccalp@gmail.com](mailto:officeuccalp@gmail.com)

Web page: [www.uccalpena.org](http://www.uccalpena.org)

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## O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

- 1 O God, our help in a-ges past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Our shel-ter from the storm-y blast,  
and our e-ter-nal home:
- 2 Un-der the shad-ow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt se-cure;  
Suf-fi-cient is your arm a-lone,  
and our de-fense is sure.
- 3 Be-fore the hills in or-der stood  
or earth re-ceived its frame,  
From ev-er-last-ing you are God,  
to end-less years the same.
4. A thou-sand a-ges in your sight  
are like an eve-ning gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
be-fore the ris-ing sun.
- 5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream  
fades at the o-pening day.
- 6 O God, our help in a-ges past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while trou-bles last,  
and our e-ter-nal home!

## How Firm a Foundation

“K” in John Rippon’s *Selection of Hymns*, 1787; alt.

1. How firm a foun-da-tion for you has been laid,  
by God in the Word, in the sac-ri-fice paid!  
What more can God say than to you has been said,  
to you, who for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis-mayed,  
for I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
I’ll strength-en you, help you, and cause you to stand  
up-held by my gra-cious, om-ni-po-tent hand.”
3. “When through the deep wa-ters I call you to go,  
the riv-ers of woe shall not o-ver you flow;  
For I will be with you, your trou-bles to bless,  
de-liv-er-ing you from your deep-est dis-tress.”
4. “When through fi-ery tri-als your path-way shall lie,  
my grace all-suf-fi-cient shall be your sup-ply;  
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de-signed  
your soul to make pure just as gold is re-fined.”
5. “The soul that on Je-sus has leaned for re-pose,  
I will not, I will not de-sert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should en-deav-or to shake,  
I’ll nev-er, no nev-er, no nev-er for-sake!”

Isa. 43:2–5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5

## Help Us Accept Each Other

Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.

1. Help us ac-cept each oth-er as Christ ac-cept-ed us;  
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er, each per-son to em-brace.  
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us, and bring us to be-lieve  
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O God, your les-sons, as in our dai-ly life  
we strug-gle to be hu-man and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for peo-ple, for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them, or as they may be-come.
3. Let your ac-cep-tance change us, so that we may be moved  
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions to do the truth in love;  
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance, un-til we know by heart  
the ta-ble of for-give-ness and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
4. God, for to-day's en-coun-ters with all who are in need,  
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance, for righ-teous-ness and bread,  
Bring us new eyes for see-ing, new hands for hold-ing on;  
re-new us with your Spir-it; God! Free us, make us one!

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John 15:12; 17:20-23; Eph. 4:1-6, 11-16

## Scripture Readings

### Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

### John 3:14-15

<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.