

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
August 10, 2025

**** *Some rise to their feet, some rise in their hearts—please rise as you are able.*

GATHERING BELL

At the sound of the bell, please silence yourselves and prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken, arr. Larry Shackley

Martha Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Petri

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

OPENING REFLECTION

Bp. Alan Morris

CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael

I arise today, through the strength of heaven, the light of the sun,

The radiance of the moon, the splendour of fire,

The speed of lightning, The swiftness of wind, The depth of the sea,

The stability of the earth, the firmness of rock.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,

**Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I
lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise.**

Be in the heart of those to whom I speak, in the mouth of those who speak unto me,

In every eye that sees me, in every ear that hears me.

******HYMN**

Morning Has Broken

All

Morning has broken like the first morning;

blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,

like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,

born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation; praise every morning,

God's re-creation of the new day!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Respond to each shared prayer request with "Peace, Shalom, Salaam."

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be
done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for
yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Michael

OFFERTORY

Salley Gardens, arr. Shackley

Martha

****DOXOLOGY (*Old Hundredth*)

All

**Praise God, whose love will never cease,
whose justice raises up the least
and sits all creatures at the feast—
God's mercy is our hope and peace!**

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Michael

Holy One, continue to bless these offerings, prosper the work of our hands, and the gifts we bring. We dedicate them to your kindom forever and ever. Amen.

****HYMN Song Folder #30

O Christ, Surround Me

All

God be the love to search and keep me;
God be the prayer to move my voice;
God be the strength to now uphold me;
O Christ, surround me. O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the name of Holy,
great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness.
O Christ, surround me. O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me. O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways,
O Christ, surround me. O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears who hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me;
O Christ, surround me. O Christ, surround me.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 7:36-50 [NRSVUE]

Michael

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind Jesus at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak."

A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my

feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little.” Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” But he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

MESSAGE

“What the Mystics Know”

Bp. Alan Morris

****HYMN NCH 451, VS 1 & 3

Be Now My Vision

All

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart –
You my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Riches I need not, nor life’s empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
you and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part

****BENEDICTION

Bp. Alan

**** SUNG BENEDICTION

World Peace Prayer

All

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe!

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE

RECESSIONAL

Ashokan Farewell, Jay Unger

Martha

Today’s Worship Leaders

“guest” preacher
liturgist
musician

Bp. Alan Morris
Michael Petri
Martha Jones

Acknowledgements

The Call to Worship is a prayer attributed to St Patrick.

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