

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Tenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 2, 2026

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

OPENING BELL

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

PRELUDE

Sunday Joy!, Mark Hayes

Martha Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Paul Ashby

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

OPENING REFLECTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Betsy McLoughlin

Human wants are endless. There is always something to repair, to upgrade, to acquire.

But Buddhist wisdom warns us that unmet desires twist us and cause us to suffer.

Jesus teaches us to pray for our daily bread.

But bread is just a beginning and is never enough.

Let us work for that day when all the children of God across this earth have the daily bread that saves them from starvation.

We acknowledge we take our daily bread for granted and often have an abundance of food.

We pray and seek the day when no one will suffer from hunger or die from lack of bread.

As we pray for our daily bread, awaken us to those hundreds of thousands without bread this day.

******HYMN**

When Jesus Sets the Table (tune: Ellacombe)

All

When Jesus sets the table, all people find a place.
That table is a promise of blessing and of grace.
So set the table fully. Invite the whole world in.
If we would share love's welcome, in feasting we begin.

Whoever we find troubling and seek to keep outside,
that is the very neighbor who must not be denied.
So set the table fully. Invite the whole world in.
If we would share love's welcome, in feasting we begin.

No race, no creed, no nation, no love of heart and vow,
no gender is rejected. The table's waiting now.
So set the table fully. Invite the whole world in.
If we would share love's welcome, in feasting we begin.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

SIXTY SECONDS FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS/CONTEMPLATION

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Betsy

OFFERTORY

Grateful, Mark Hayes

Martha

**DOXOLOGY (tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*)

All

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Betsy

God of creation, we offer our gratitude for the abundance in our life. In even those months with big bills and inflation we admit we are blessed. In spite of our grumbles at gas pumps and groceries, there are billions of people who would trade places with us. In our giving, our living and our grumbling, grant us new hints towards gratitude. Grant us gifts of experiences of joy and contentment. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:27-35 (NRSVUE)

Betsy

After this Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up, left everything, and followed him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for Jesus in his house, and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others reclining at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

MESSAGE

"Give Us This Day"

Paul

****HYMN

Food is Blessing (tune: *Nettleton*)

All

Food is blessing for our bodies, Gift of God the earth provides.
May we eat in such a manner that our bodies truly thrive.
Faithful seeds are stretching open root and stem for sun and rain,
sacred blessings for our bodies, Holy gifts for all the same.

Food is blessing for all people. Praise the miracle of life.
May we eat in such a manner that all people truly thrive.
Careful ministry of farmers bring shalom from hill and plain.
Sacred blessings for all people, Holy gifts to all the same.

Food is blessing from our planet. Let us bless the land with pride.
May we eat in such a manner that our planet truly thrives.
Our dear partners in creation: soil and sky and sea we claim
sacred blessings from our planet, Holy gifts for all the same.

Food is blessing for the sharing, gift of life we can't confine.
May we eat in such a manner all creation truly thrives
See the beauty of the garden, taste the love of God proclaimed
sacred blessings for the sharing, Holy gifts for all the same.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Gluten free options are available.)

Paul

All are welcome who practice the way of compassion.

****HYMN 425

For the Fruit of All Creation

All

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

****BENEDICTION

Paul

**** 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

For the Fruit of All Creation, arr. Jane Holstein

Martha

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
Betsy McLoughlin
Martha Jones

Acknowledgements

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