

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
World Communion Sunday
October 5, 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

Prelude and Fugue in G, J.S. Bach

Ellen Bradley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. 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

Martha Jones

Each day we live by faith and hope.

**Already we have faith that breakfast foods were not infused with poison, that cars will
start, that bodies will continue with breath and circulation.**

We have faith that we can find the goodness and God-ness in this day.

We have faith that church will not be so boring as to induce snoring.

We have faith in doctors, nurses, teachers, fire fighters and a host of other people who work to
help and heal.

**We have faith in the path of Jesus to guide us toward compassion, mercy, forgiveness,
and hope.**

******HYMN**

Journey of Faith (tune: Lobe den Herren)

All

Maker of galaxies, stardust, and all that has being,
open the eyes of our hearts to know faith's way of seeing.
Shine through the night; lead us to radiance of light,
vision empow'ring and freeing.

Jesus, of Mary born, bringing the good news astounding,
open the ears of our hearts to your Gospel resounding.
Hearing your voice, let all the people rejoice,
glad in your blessings abounding.

Spirit of Jesus and mentor of saints through the ages,
open our lips with a word that invites and engages.
We will proclaim pardon and peace in Christ's name
through all of life, all its stages.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Paul

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

Martha

OFFERTORY

In the Bread Broken, Mary Kay Beall

Choir

****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

Martha

Holy One, inspire us to share, not out of any sense of guilt, but in faith for the good we can do and the joy to be experienced both by us and by those we help. May our offerings and our faith create a community of compassion. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Luke 17:5-10

Martha

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!' "

MESSAGE

"Exercising a Little Faith"

Paul

****HYMN Sing! Prayer & Praise #112

Come to the Table of Grace

All

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is Christ's table, not just yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.
This is Christ's table, not just yours or mine.
Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.
This is Christ's table, not just yours or mine.
Come to the table of love.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Gluten free options are available.)

Paul

All are welcome who practice the way of compassion.

**HYMN

Journey of Faith (tune: *Lobe den Herren*)

All

We are your fam'ly beloved in each generation,
Church on a pilgrimage, called to embrace transformation.
Called to this way, growing in love day by day,
we live now, Christ's new creation.

Praise for the joy of believing and journey amazing;
praise for the goodness and beauty here, ev'rywhere blazing!

Praise for the song, singing the faint-hearted strong;
praise for delight in the praising!

****BENEDICTION

Paul

**** SONG 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

Lobe den Herren, arr. Lani Smith

Ellen

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
Martha Jones
Ellen Bradley

Acknowledgements

Unless otherwise noted, the following music is reprinted and/or included in the worship recording with permission through OneLicense #A-709231. All rights reserved. All other music in public domain.

Call to worship, Invitation to Offering and Prayer of Dedication adapted from UCC Worship Ways, Comfort and Agony: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. The doxology words are by Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, published in *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow: Doxologies for the Church* by The God Is Still Speaking® Writers Group of the United Church of Christ © 2024.

- ◇ *Journey of Faith*. Words: Delores Dufner, OSB © 2012 Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict. Published by World Library Publications.
- ◇ *In the Bread Broken*. Mary Kay Beall © 1996, Hope Publishing Co.
- ◇ *Come to the Table of Grace*. Words and music by Barbara Hamm © 2008. Hope Publishing Company.
- ◇ Music during communion: *Improvisation on 'Let Us Break Bread Together'* by David Lasky © 1994, H.W. Gray Publications.
- ◇ *Lead Us from Death to Life (World Peace Prayer)*. Words of refrain by Satish Kumar. Tune by Marty Haugen © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.