

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Third Sunday After Epiphany
January 25, 2026

**** 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

Beautiful Savior, Diane Bish

Ellen Bradley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ken Puhler

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

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal; love leaves a memory no one can steal.

There are special people in our lives who never leave us, even after they are gone.

Grief is the price we pay for love. Grief is love with nowhere to go.

Some people make the world a better place as they go.

Some people make it better when they go.

******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!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ken

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 GIVE

Betsy

OFFERTORY

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People Marty Haugen

Choir

****DOXOLOGY (tune: *Tallis Canon*)

**Praise God who calls all humankind;
Praise Christ for loving ties that bind;
Praise Spirit making all things new;
One Love, One God, we honor you!**

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, you have gathered us in, and reminded us that we are your Beloved. As water flows from its source to nourish field and forest, so let our giving flow outward—to nourish hope, to tend to healing, to join the slow and sacred work of renewing the world. Bless these gifts, and bless the lives from which they come. We offer what we have and who we are with joy and trust, for the sake of your dream of flourishing. Amen.

All

HYMN NCH 297

Give Thanks for Life

All

Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
Yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Give thanks for those who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,
Who touched the truth, who burned for what was right, Alleluia, Alleluia!

And for our own, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
A love not changed by time or death or dread, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain
that lies in darkness does its life retain
in resurrection to grow green again, Alleluia, Alleluia!

CONTEMPORARY READINGS

If you ask the cloud, "How old are you? Can you give me your date of birth?" you can listen deeply and you may hear a reply. You can imagine the cloud being born. Before being born it was the water on the ocean's surface. Or it was in the river and then it became vapor. It was also the sun because the sun makes the vapor. The wind is there too, helping the water to become a cloud. The cloud does not come from nothing; there has been only a change in form. It is not a birth of something out of nothing.

Sooner or later, the cloud will change into rain or snow or ice. If you look deeply into the rain, you can see the cloud. The cloud is not lost; it is transformed into rain, and the rain is transformed into grass and the grass into cows and then to milk and then into the ice cream you eat.

Today if you eat an ice cream, give yourself time to look at the ice cream and say: "Hello, cloud! I recognize you."

— Thích Nhất Hạnh, *No Death, No Fear: Comforting Wisdom for Life*

In order to know a community, one must observe the style of its funerals and know what manner of men they bury with most ceremony.

Mark Twain, - *Roughing It*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 22:17-19, NIV

Betsy

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

MESSAGE

"In Remembrance of Me"

Ken

****HYMN

The Welcome Table

All

Paul Heintzleman, guitar; Martha Jones, leading

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table.

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days. Hallelujah!

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table.

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

All kinds of people around that table.

All kinds of people around that table one of these days. Hallelujah!

All kinds of people around that table.

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

Here all the world will find a welcome.

Here all the world will find a welcome one of these days. Hallelujah!

Here all the world will find a welcome.

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

One of these days . . . one of these days.

****BENEDICTION

Ken

**** 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

God Still Lives, J.S. Bach

Ellen

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Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Ken Puhler
Betsy McLoughlin
Ellen Bradley