

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
"Food, Glorious Food" Sunday
January 21, 2024

*** 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 Star, Our Hope, Our Help . . . Ruth Elaine Schram

Shannon Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Petri

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Ellen Bradley

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

OPENING REFLECTION

Ken Puhler

CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael

Humans do not live by bread alone ...

But we certainly want to!

Can chocolate, coffee or tea be a sacrament?

Of course!

We have been told: we are what we eat.

Jesus teaches us that we are like those with whom we eat, and encourages us to share more than food with one another.

**HYMN

Raise a Song of Gladness

All

Musical notation for the hymn "Raise a Song of Gladness". The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Raise a song of glad-ness, peo-ples of the earth. Christ has come, bring-ing peace, joy to ev - ery heart. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - ery heart! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - ery heart!"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ken

ANTHEM

Refiner's Fire

Choir

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

How Beautiful the Sky . . . Paul Manz

Shannon

DOXOLOGY (tune: *Old Hundredth*)

**Praise God, whose image we all bear;
Praise Christ, whose mercy we all share;
Praise Spirit, making justice grow –
One Love from whom all blessings flow!**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Michael

O God, in the sharing of these gifts help us to remember and act. When we have food, help us to remember the hungry. When we have work, help us to remember the jobless. When we have homes, help us to remember those who have no home at all. When we are without pain, help us to remember those who suffer. And when we remember, help us to destroy our complacency, bestir our compassion, and be concerned enough to help, through our giving and by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted. Amen

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.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:6-8, Luke 22:14-19

Michael

On this mountain the God of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And God will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; and death will be swallowed up forever. Then the Divine One will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of the people God will take away from all the earth, for God has spoken.

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kin-dom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kin-dom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

MESSAGE *"The Spirituality of Sharing Food"* Ken

**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 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 *Wie Schön Leuchtet . . . Mark Sedio* Shannon
(*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*)

Today's Worship Leaders

"guest" preacher Ken Puhler
liturgist Michael Petri
greeters Betsy McLoughlin
musician Shannon Jones

Acknowledgements

Words for doxology are adapted from a doxology by Rev. Dr. J. Mary Luti.

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