

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
July 12, 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

Prelude in Classic Style, Gordon Young

Ellen Bradley

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

Beth Rakestraw

We can sense the holy in historic cathedrals where light is refracted through windows that reflect the beauty of creation.

**When we walk through the National Monument with the shadows of sunset descending,
we sense an energy that lifts our hearts.**

In places of history, where soldiers fought for freedom against slavery and freedom, against fascism we step upon ground made hallowed by sacrifice and courage.

**Our Jewish brothers and sisters dare not speak the name of God for minds and lips fail
to grasp its vastness and holiness.**

When we say hallowed be God's name it is a warning against using God's name to endorse ICE brutality, slavery, theocracy and unjust wars.

Help us to walk upon this earth as the hallowed ground of creation.

**** HYMN NCH #1

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

All

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Your life is lifegiving -- to both great and small;
In all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
Then wither and perish, but naught dims your powers.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we now render as your angels do:
In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

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

Beth

OFFERTORY

Kimo Hula, Nick Castillo

Connie Pyle

**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

Beth

God of holiness, silence the propaganda that misuses Your name for political power, violence, racism and war. Let our words bring help, hope and healing to our earth. Let our actions create joy and wonder in the work of Christ's compassion on earth. Amen

**HYMN NCH 11

Bring Many Names

All

Bring many names, beautiful and good, celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God. Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day, planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play: Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child, feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled: Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care, calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair: Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move, saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have: Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known, joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer than our breathing, everlasting home: Hail and Hosanna, great living God!

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSVUE)

Beth

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Holy One sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of God's robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above the Lord; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of the Lord's glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a person of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen God, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

MESSAGE

"A Forgotten Word"

Paul

****HYMN NCH 32

God of The Sparrow, God of the Whale

All

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars,
How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?

God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast,
How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?

God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave,
How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?

God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal,
How does the creature say Care? How does the creature say Life?

God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook,
How does the creature say Love? How does the creature say Peace?

God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart,
How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home.

****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

Holy, Holy, Holy, arr Livingston

Ellen

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
Beth Rakestraw
Ellen Bradley

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