

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
All Saints
November 3, 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

When the Saints Go Marching In, arr Chuck Marohnic

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

The most generous people in our lives often shared much more than money.

To truly see the good in others is a gift.

To offer our warmth with a smile is an expression of welcome and acceptance.

To share kind words lifts our soul and the lives of those who walk with us.

To act with compassion in our heart lets the energy of concern become the gift of true help.

To give up our seat to someone with a cane or walker adds joy to this earth.

To offer hospitality invites friendship.

And friends are God's apology for some of our family members.

****HYMN NCH 376**

God, We Thank You for Our People

All

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.

Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:

Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told,
hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.

Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we have failed;
though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.
Tempers racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame
You transform by ways forgiving. Grace amazing! Grace, your name!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Paul

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

Pastorale, Jason W. Krug

Handbell Choir

Ruth Annis
Chuck Burch

Marjorie Graham
Florine Herod

Dorothy Segrest

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.

A MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Connie Pyle

OFFERTORY

The Gift of Love, arr Hal Hopson

Chancel Choir

**OFFERING RESPONSE (tune: Old Hundredth)

All

**O hear your people as we trace
your mercy and your boundless grace;
receive our praise that's never done,
O God, O Christ, O Spirit One!**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Betsy

Source of life and light, beyond all of our fears and beliefs we sense the reality of grace. Deeper than our anxiety is the peace that is eternal. Deeper than our self-concern are unfolding gifts of life that sustain us with food, water, shelter, and resources for inner growth. Let our gifts help to create a world where all families have water, food, shelter, and resource for inner growth. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:22, Luke 10:1-9

Betsy

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness.

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After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

MESSAGE

"7 Types of Generosity You Can Share Even if You are Broke"

Paul

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!

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

All who practice the way of compassion are welcome.

Paul

**HYMN NCH 562

Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You

All

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter – flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer – gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:
Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

**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

Reprise of *Take My Gifts*

Martha

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Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
choir director
musicians

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
Betsy McLoughlin
Dr. Keri Rusthoi
Martha Jones