

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
June 30, 2024

*** Some rise to their feet, some rise in their hearts—please rise as you are able.*

PRELUDE

Canon in D, Johann Pachelbel

Shannon Jones

GATHERING BELL

At the sound of the bell, please silence yourselves and prepare for worship.

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

Joanne Drake

We know God does not wear pants or have physical parts.

We pray for God's kingdom to manifest as a protest against all human kings and their claims of absolute immunity from all laws.

We seek to do God's will on this earth even knowing our efforts will not create heaven on earth.

We ask for our daily bread and dare to work for the day when everyone has bread every day.

We ask for forgiveness knowing that everyone has problems, flaws and blind spots.

We hope, with God's help, to avoid trouble and survive the problems that place us at risk.

We dare to ask for the strength not to return evil when evil has caused us to suffer.

**HYMN

Sing a New World into Being (tune: Hymn to Joy)

All

Sing a new world into being. Sing a bold and hopeful theme.

Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lift your voice and dare to dream:

Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.

Sing a new world into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song!

Sing a new world into being where each gender, class, and race

Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace;

Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.

Sing a new world into being: risk transforming heart and mind!

Sing a new world into being where the homeless find a home,

Where no children ever hunger but are filled in God's shalom;

Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.

Sing a new world into being: raise the harmonies of peace.

Sing a new world into being, join the ancient prophets' cry

For a time of health and plenty, when all tears have been wiped dry:

When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe!

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

Joanne

OFFERTORY

Kingsfold, Anne Krenz Organ

Bell Choir and Shannon

**OFFERING RESPONSE (tune: *Holy Manna*)

All

Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;
from the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Joanne

Holy One, use these gifts to enable Your will to be done through us. We do not have to guess or speculate about what you call us to do. Strengthen us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, care for the sick, forgive the flawed, and confront the evils of racism and injustice. Amen

HYMN NCH 521

In Solitude

All

In solitude, in solitude, I come to God in prayer.
In silence and simplicity, my spirit blossoms there.

Whene'er the world is troubling me, and stress is all around,
I seek the presence of my God, and healing light is found.

In seasons of perplexity, in times of deep despair,
I light a candle in the night and turn to God in prayer.

And when my heart is burdened down with cares for those I love,
too deep for words, with groans and sighs, descends the holy dove.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:9-13

Joanne

"Pray then in this way: Our Father 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 also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

MESSAGE "Should the Lord's Prayer be Updated? Reasons to say Both Yes and No!"

Paul

Our Creator, who is present in all of creation,
By many holy names across this earth, You are celebrated.
Help us to make peace a reality to come,
Enable us to open the doors to compassion on earth as wide as the doors in heaven.
Give us this day the essentials we need.
Forgive the ways we overlook the essentials that others lack.
Save us from the destructive lure of addictions,
Deliver us from injustices that destroy lives.
For your way is path of peace, justice, and joyful sharing this day and forever.
---21st century translation of original Lord's Prayer, Rev Dr. Paul Ashby

**HYMN

Our Amma, Abba, Holy One (see insert)

All

**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

Fantasia, Johann Pachelbel

Shannon

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
Joanne Drake
Shannon Jones

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