

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
All Saints | Pre Antepenultimate Sunday Before Advent
November 2, 2025

**** *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 *Gift of Finest Wheat (You Satisfy The Hungry Heart)*, Charles Callahan Ellen Bradley

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. 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 Allan Weinand

We may grumble about bills and taxes but by grace, and good planning and finances, we do not worry about our daily bread.

Most of us can go to a restaurant any day we would like and we could go everyday if that's what we desire.

The sharing of food opens the way for friendship, conversation, heart connections and love.

Our lives are shaped by those we share food with day by day and year after year.

As Jesus shared his depth of love in communion, we ask for realizations of that love.

In our own life story, awaken us to see more clearly that sharing bread is sharing love.

****HYMN 562, vs. 1 & 3

Take My Gifts

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 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Paul

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

Rev. Gary Bryant Stephanie Goode Ward Scott Larry Woodley

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 Michael Petri

OFFERTORY

For the Autumn Sky, Ruth Elaine Schram

Choir

****DOXOLOGY (*Lasst uns erfreuen*)

All

**Praise God, who makes all people one,
whose healing work is never done,
alleluia, alleluia;
who calls us steadfast to abide
in mercy at each other's side:
alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Allan

God of Love, You have blessed us with abundance. We are a well-fed nation. Out of our blessings help us to share the food our neighbors need to survive. Let these gifts be the energy that generates mercy and compassion for those who struggle to find their daily bread. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:13-21; John 21:12-17

Allan

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

MESSAGE

"Life Lessons in Love from a Homeless Cat"

Paul

**HYMN NCH 332, vs. 1 & 3

As We Gather at your Table

All

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Gluten free options are available.)

Paul

All are welcome who practice the way of compassion.

****HYMN NCH 419

Now Thank We All Our God

All

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, our Maker now be given.
To Christ and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven.
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

****BENEDICTION

Paul

**** SONG 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

Now Thank We All Our God, J S Bach

Ellen

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Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
Allan Weinand
Ellen Bradley