

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
October 9, 2022

*** 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

Prelude in C, BWV 553, J. S. Bach

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

Pam Gregory

God of all living beings, the beauty of creation is all around us. We witness Your beauty in our world.

My soul longs for the presence of God. My heart and soul seek the source of life, of joy, of creation.

Even a sparrow finds a home in Your presence.

Even the swallow builds a nest to lay her young by Your altars.

Joyful are those who dwell in Your presence and lift their hearts with songs of celebration.

Lord, God of hosts, happy are those who delight in the beauty of creation.

**HYMN NCH 6

Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good

All

Sing praise to God, our highest good profound respect expressing.

God gives us health, life, livelihood, with every needed blessing.

To God, who wondrous works performs, creating life and calming storms,
to God give praise and glory.

Creation thanks you, Holy One: you made us and renew us.

Delighted at what you have done, you show your greatness through us.

So may all living things proclaim the wonders of their Maker's name:
to God give praise and glory.

What God has made, God will preserve, with righteousness unending.

Regardless what we may deserve, we see this good prevailing.

To God who governs evermore with justice serving rich and poor,
to God give praise and glory.

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 God, 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.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Pam

OFFERTORY

Let All Things Now Living, Lloyd Larson

Martha Jones

**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

Pam

God of compassion, use our gifts to plant the seeds of peace in our community, our nation, our world. Through compassion in our congregational tradition, we raised the conscience of our nation to end slavery, to ordain women and GLBT persons, to march for civil rights, and to work for justice for migrant laborers, immigrants, the homeless, the hungry, and the oppressed. Inspire us to confront the evils of anger, greed, and ignorance. Amen.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Nellie Garcia, Child and Migrant Family Services

**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.

SCRIPTURE

Job 12:7-13 & Psalm 84

Pam

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being. Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food?

Is wisdom with the aged, and understanding in length of days? “With God are wisdom and strength; he has counsel and understanding.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah

Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

MESSAGE

Ten Gratitude Lessons from Dogs and Cats

Paul

**HYMN Song Folder #15

Let All Things Now Living

All

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
God's banners fly o'er us; God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

The law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim the Divine.
We, to, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest hosanna and praise!

**BENEDICTION

**UNISON 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!

Acknowledgements

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- ◇ *Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good*. Tune : *Mit Freuden Zart*, Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesant, 1566, harm, Maurice F. Bell, 1906. Text: Johann Jakob Schutz, 1675. Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall © 1993, Augsburg Fortress.
- ◇ *Let All Things Now Living*. Based on *Ash Grove*, a Welsh tune. Arr Lloyd Larson © 1998 and this arr 2008, Hope Publishing Co.
- ◇ *Doxology*. Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, Germany, 1623. Arr. Mark Hayes © 2008, Lorenz Publ. Co.
- ◇ *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*. Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda © 1983, Concordia Publishing House. Tune: *Roeder*, Carl F. Schalk © 1983, GIA Publications.
- ◇ *Let All Things Now Living*, Song Folder 15. Tune: *Ash Grove*, a traditional Welsh melody. Text: Katherine K. David © 1938, 1966, E.C. Schirmer.
- ◇ *Lead Us from Death to Life (World Peace Prayer)*. Words of refrain by Satish Kumar. Tune by Marty Haugen © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher	Rev Paul Ashby
liturgist	Pam Gregory
musician	Martha Jones

Pastoral Care

To call Pastor Paul:

- **His cell phone, 970-793-8638. [Paul prefers calls over texts]**
- *His extension at church, 970-242-0298, x104.*
- *Home landline, 970-200-2668. [Paul is always up until midnight, do not be shy about calling late when there is need.]*

To share a prayer request with the congregation, contact Beth Rakestraw, office@uccgj.org or 970-242-0298 x 105. **Deadline for publishing in the Sunday bulletin is Thursday noon.**

FCUCC Staff

senior pastor	revpaulashby@yahoo.com	Rev. Paul Ashby
choir & bell director	topcatkc@aol.com	Karen Caton
custodian		Anna Driggs
office administrator	office@uccgj.org	Beth Rakestraw
volunteer financial clerks	finance@uccgj.org	Nancy Palubicki & Martha Jones
music coordinator		Martha Jones

Announcements

Contact: Beth Rakestraw, Office Administrator, office@uccgj.org

Guest WiFi Access | The name of our guest WiFi is FCUCCguest; the password is "welcomeall."

Join us for Coffee after worship | You must be current on Covid vaccinations to join us for social events. Persons with underlying health conditions are encouraged to mask for indoor events.

Community Trash Pickup Activity | October 15th | 10:00 A.M. to Noon | This event is supported by Adopt-A-Highway, which will provide vests and garbage bags. The area designated is between mile markers 38-40, between Clifton and Palisade. We will meet other volunteers at 9:30, then carpool to the site. Contact Pam Gregory, 913-485-9953, to sign up. The Gregorys will probably have lunch somewhere after, so please consider joining us.

Let's Write Some Post Cards | Mission and Outreach would like to invite members to join a post card writing activity during coffee hour after church on Sunday, October 16th. These are handwritten post cards sent out to voters who are often disenfranchised. Please see the article in Church Chat by Patty Lawless for more information about this effort. If you are interested in joining in on the 16th, please let Ellen Bradley know by October 10th so that we can order the right number of post cards to be sent out. Also, if possible, bring colored pens and/or markers in order to make the post cards more attractive. We will provide the rest of the materials with instructions. Thank you!

Love Books? | The Friends of the Library will hold their annual book sale at the church on October 20-22. Church members are welcome to put on an apron (so they are official) and help keep the tables straightened. For information, see Carolyn Ramsey.

Mission & Outreach October Collection | The Mission and Outreach team will be focusing on Mutual Aid Partners for the last quarter of 2022. For the month of October, we will be collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, and razors. You may place your contributions in the designated bin near the church office or leave them in the Gathering Space on Sundays. Thank you!

October Collection for Catholic Outreach | The shelves in the food pantry at Catholic Outreach that usually abound with **bottles of salad dressing** are sadly nearly empty right now. Let's replenish them – and it doesn't have to cost an arm and a leek. The Dollar Store has lots of bottles for only \$1.25 apiece. Or your favorite grocery-store may have it on sale in preparation for holiday festivities. Let's see if we can manage 100 bottles this month.

Mission & Outreach Ongoing Collections for Solidarity, Not Charity | We currently collect hotel and personal size toiletries, and water/milk jugs with their lids for Solidarity, Not Charity. **Please stop bringing in grocery bags for right now! Thanks.**

This Week at FCUCC
October 9 – October 16, 2022

Sunday 9	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	Worship & Celebration	library
Monday 10	5:00	Make Mondays Fun	pilgrim
Tuesday 11	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 12	1:00	Through the Bible Study	chapel
Thursday 13	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
Friday 14	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Saturday 15	10:00	I-70 Trash Pick Up	
Sunday 16	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	Council	chapel

Congregants are invited to attend council meetings.

Church office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00.

Save the Dates:

October 19- 22 | Friends of the Library Book Sale

October 23 | Fall Sunday Book Study Begins, *Christians Against Christianity, How Right-Wing Evangelicals are Destroying our Nation and Our Faith.*

November 6 | Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 8 | Election Day

November 27 | Advent Begins

December 18 | Annual Congregational Budget Meeting

Christmas Eve is on Saturday this year; Christmas Day on Sunday.

Vision & Mission

As a progressive Christian community of faith, we seek to walk with compassion, inclusion, acceptance, bravery and understanding as Jesus did.

We *STRIVE* to:

- ◇ *be a welcoming congregation where you are safe to be who you are.*
- ◇ *be life-long learners that question and challenge each other to grow in faith, thought and actions.*
- ◇ *work for peace, equity and justice for all people*
- ◇ *protect and restore the integrity of our earth and all of creation.*
- ◇ *be change-makers.*