

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
January 28, 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

Thanks Be to Thee, G. F. Handel

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

Paul

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joanne Drake

The key to a happy life is the experience of gratitude.

No matter how much we have or own or have paid off... what we have is no guarantee of gratitude.

Even billionaires can be discontented and driven by a quest for more.

Awaken us to the opportunities in each day to be grateful.

Life itself can open the door to be awoken to the goodness and God-ness of each day.

We pray for gifts of gratitude in our daily life.

****HYMN NCH 17, vs. 1-3**

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

All

To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, everything
Sings your praises, alleluia!

Your burning sun with golden beam, your silver moon with softer gleam
Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your wind that blows the tempest by, your clouds that sail across the sky
Sing your praises, alleluia!

Your morning rises with a song, and lights of evening sing along,
Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your flowing waters, crystal clear, make melodies for you to hear,
Sing your praises, alleluia!

Your fire, bountiful and bright, remembering your warmth and light,
Sings your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Jesus is the Light, J. Paul Williams and Patti Drennan

Choir

DOXOLOGY (tune: *Old Hundredth*)

**Praise God, whose image we all bear;
Praise Christ, whose mercy we all share;
Praise Spirit, making justice grow –
One Love from whom all blessings flow!**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Joanne

Source of life, awaken our gratitude for the simple joy of living in a place of beauty. Help us to pause long enough to appreciate sunny days and sunsets, visions of snow reflecting on the mesa, and the majestic rocks that cause us to feel the wonder of natural beauty. Amen

**HYMN

Raise a Song of Gladness

All

Raise a song of glad-ness, peo-ples of the earth.
Christ has come, bring-ing peace, joy to ev - ery heart.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - ery heart!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - ery heart!

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:21-28, 1st Thessalonians 5:16-18

Joanne

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

MESSAGE

"Give Yourself Gifts of Gratitude"

Paul

**HYMN 425, vs 1 & 3

For the Fruit of All Creation

All

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

**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

Let All Things Now Living, arr/ Larry Shackley

Martha

Acknowledgements

Words for doxology are adapted from a doxology by Rev. Dr. J. Mary Luti.

Unless otherwise noted, the following music is reprinted and/or streamed with permission.
OneLicense #A-709231. All rights reserved.

- ◇ *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing*. Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, Germany, 1623. Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. Public domain. Words: St. Francis of Assisi, 1225, adapt. Miriam Therese Winter © 1993, Medical Mission Sisters. Permission granted by Sr. Miriam Therese Winter.
- ◇ *Jesus is the Light!*, incorporates the spiritual, *All Day, All Night*. Text and music by Patti Drennan © 2010, al Leonard Corporation.
- ◇ *Raise a Song of Gladness*. Text: Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier. Text and music © 1979, Les Presses de Taizé (admin GIA Publications, Inc.)
- ◇ *For the Fruit of All Creation*. Tune: *Ar hyd y nos*, a traditional Welsh melody harmonized by L.E. Emerson, 1906. Text: Fred Pratt Green © 1970 by Hope Publishing Co
- ◇ *Lead Us from Death to Life (World Peace Prayer)*. Words of refrain by Satish Kumar. Tune by Marty Haugen © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense
- ◇ *Let All Things Now Living*. *Ash Grove*, a Welsh folk tune. Arranged by Larry Shackley © 2016 Hope Publishing Company.

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
greeters
musician

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
Joanne Drake
Larry & Janis Woodley
Martha Jones