

**Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
November 17, 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 *Let All Things Now Living* (Tune: Ash Grove), arr David Cherwien Shannon 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

Ken Puhler

To love God is to open our hearts to the beauty of creation and open our eyes to the image of God in others.

On busy days we do not notice the gifts of beauty around us. When we are in a rush we miss seeing the image of God in others.

We confess our capacity to be present to God-ness and goodness can get lost in a busy day.

Help us to slow down, to be aware, to tune into our highest values.

Are our highest values what we say they are?

God of love, free us from the anxiety and fear that hinders us from living out our highest values.

**HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

New Century Hymnal #28

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower. Sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

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		Ken
OFFERTORY	<i>For the Autumn Sky</i> , Ruth Elaine Schram	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		Ken
	Creator of Abundance, save us from the rat race of feeling we never have enough. Liberate us from the endless wants for something more. Let us taste the goodness of gratitude. Let us practice the art of generosity. Let us experience the gift called contentment. AMEN	
**HYMN	<i>Let All Things Now Living</i>	Song Folder #15
	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, too, 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!	
SCRIPTURE	<i>Matthew 6:24-27</i>	Ken
	"No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?"	
MESSAGE	<i>"What Do Our Tallest Buildings Say About Our Highest Values?"</i>	Paul
**HYMN (see insert)	<i>Lord of All Hopefulness, Lord of All Joy</i>	All
**BENEDICTION		Paul
** SUNG BENEDICTION	<i>World Peace Prayer</i>	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

Welsh Blessing, arr Mark Sedio

Shannon

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musicians

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
Ken Puhler
Shannon Jones, Kam Macar

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