

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost
October 29, 2023

*** 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

For All the Saints, Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

Paul

CALL TO WORSHIP

Carolyn Holmgren

We often view love only in terms of romance, but Jesus reminds us love is a church in solidarity with the poor.

Love is a church that is present and caring with those who are sick.

Love is a church that offers space for counseling those who are stressed or distressed.

Love is a church engaged in the needs of its city, its community.

Love is a church that supports people through the grief process.

Love is a church that marches for justice and mercy.

Love is a church that feeds the hungry.

Love is a church that lifts the heart and soul. Amen

****HYMN**

Sing for God's Glory (tune: Lobe den Herren)

All

Sing for God's glory that colours the dawn of creation,
racing across the sky, trailing bright clouds of elation;
sun of delight succeeds the velvet of night,
warming the earth's exultation.

Sing for God's power that shatters the chains that would bind us,
searing the darkness of fear and despair that could blind us,
touching our shame with love that will not lay blame,
reaching out gently to find us.

Sing for God's justice disturbing each easy illusion,
tearing down tyrants and putting our pride to confusion;
lifeblood of right, resisting evil and slight,
offering freedom's transfusion.

Sing for God's saints who have travelled faith's journey before us,
who in our weariness give us their hope to restore us;
in them we see the new creation to be,
spirit of love made flesh for us.

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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

The Potter's Hand, Zschech

Choir

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Julie Krueger

OFFERTORY

All Saints Day Medley, Becki Slagle Mayo

Shannon

**DOXOLOGY

Know That God is Good

All

**Know that God is good. Know that God is good.
Know that God is good. God is good. God is good.**

**Hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah.
Hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Carolyn

God of love, we celebrate the ways our love makes a difference. Through giving we add love to a world in need of help and healing. Through love we walk in the steps of Jesus. Amen

REMEMBERING SAINTS IN OUR CIRCLE OF LIFE

Paul

David Hoefler 10/26/23

Pat Malone 8/21/23

Eric Reed 3/16/23

Bruce Lohmiller 10/9/23

Chuck Harvey 7/26/23

Elizabeth Terrell 2/28/23

Nancy Hoefler 9/11/23

Sandy Altland 7/11/23

Shirley Ela 1/18/2023

Gail Mosher 8/27/23

Joan Rockingham 4/7/23

HYMN NCH 297

Give Thanks for Life

All

Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
Yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Give thanks for those who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,
Who touched the truth, who burned for what was right, Alleluia, Alleluia!

And for our own, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
A love not changed by time or death or dread, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain
that lies in darkness does its life retain
in resurrection to grow green again, Alleluia, Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:34-40, 1st John 4:7,8

Carolyn

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

MESSAGE *“Jesus’ Job Description”* Paul

**HYMN NCH 498, vs 1-3 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love* All

Refrain

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Knelt at the feet of his friends, silently washing their feet,
Jesu, you acted as servant to them. *refrain*

Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are near and far away. *refrain*

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *refrain*

**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

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Today’s Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
greeters
guest musician

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
Carolyn Holmgren
Larry & Janis Woodley
Shannon Jones