

# First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*"No matter who you are,  
or where you are  
on life's journey,  
you are welcome here."*

Senior Minister  
Rev. Tim Vander Haar

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**

1201 Jefferson Street  
Muskegon, Michigan 49441  
231-726-3254

[www.fccmuskegon.org](http://www.fccmuskegon.org)

<p><b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b> <b>JANUARY 7, 2024</b></p>
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**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**PRELUDE**

*We Three Kings*, Arranged by Paul Manz

**GATHERING PRAYER**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Light in the Darkness,  
with the dawning of this new year  
let us be awe-struck and startled in our stumbling,  
awakened to Your nearness anew.**

**May we receive courage  
to surrender our old maps  
and to risk making our way by Your side.  
We lift our prayers in this new day together  
in the name of Jesus, our Way-Maker,  
and our Light.  
Amen.**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## OPENING HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *Jesus, the Light of the World*



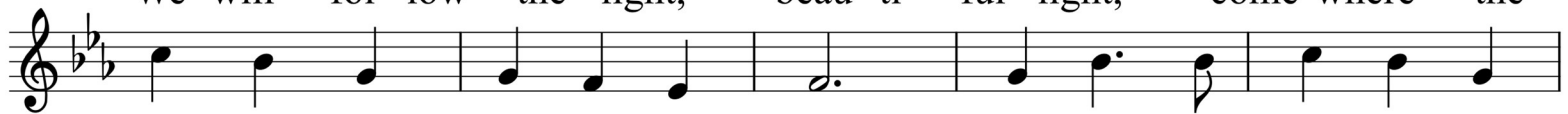
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the light of the world;  
Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, Je - sus, the light of the world;  
Hail the bear - er of God's peace! Je - sus, the light of the world;



Glo - ry to the Christ - child bring, Je - sus, the light of the world.  
Join the tri - umph of the skies, Je - sus, the light of the world.  
Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness! Je - sus, the light of the world.



We will fol - low the light, beau - ti - ful light, come where the



dew - drops of mer - cy are bright, Shine all a - round us by



day and by night, Je - sus, the light of the world.

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 1:4-11

**J**ohn the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*A Christmas Hallelujah*

Asa Orion,  
Joseph Dixon, and Kendyl White,  
Vocalists

## **MESSAGE**

The Way to The Way

*\*Those who wish may stand\**

## HYMN

*\*Those who wish may stand\**

### *Arise, Your Light is Come*

A D A D A E B7 E

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show  
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -  
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind  
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise

A E D A Bm D#dim7 E A D A Esus4 E7 A

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.  
up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

*Words:* Ruth Duck, 1947–

*Music:* William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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U.S.A.  
6.6.8.6. (S.M.)  
FESTAL SONG

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*. . . ending with the Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

### **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*Wonderful, Merciful Savior*, by Dawn Thomas and Eric Wyse  
© 1989 World Music LLC

Asa Orion,  
Joseph Dixon, and Kendyl White,  
Vocalists

## **DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father (*Creator*), Son (*Christ*), and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## CLOSING HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/2 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding lyric line. The lyrics are: 'O ra - dant Christ, in - car - nate Word, Our bar - tered, bu - sy lives burn dim, Your glo - ry shone at Jor - dan's stream, O Light of Na - tions, fill the earth; e - ter - nal love re - vealed in time: too tired to care, too numb to feel. the font where we were born a - new. our faith and hope and love re - new. Come, make your home with - in our hearts, Come, shine up - on our shad - owed world; At - tune your church to know you near; Come, lead the peo - ples to your peace, that we may dwell in light sub - lime. your ra - diance bathes with power to heal. il - lu - mine all we say and do. as stars once led the way to you.' The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

O ra - dant Christ, in - car - nate Word,  
Our bar - tered, bu - sy lives burn dim,  
Your glo - ry shone at Jor - dan's stream,  
O Light of Na - tions, fill the earth;

e - ter - nal love re - vealed in time:  
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Come, make your home with - in our hearts,  
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that we may dwell in light sub - lime.  
your ra - diance bathes with power to heal.  
il - lu - mine all we say and do.  
as stars once led the way to you.

## POSTLUDE

*In dir ist Freude, by J.S. Bach*

## Today's Service

Rev. Kristen Orion  
Dr. Michael Match  
John Mattson  
Asa Orion  
Joseph Dixon  
Kendyl White  
Tom Hardy  
Blake Filius

Guest Pastor  
Music Director/Cantor  
Organist  
Special Music  
Special Music  
Special Music  
Liturgist/Prayers of the People  
Audio and Video

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*We welcome back Rev. Kristen Orion as guest pastor this morning.*

*Thank you to our guest singers for sharing your musical talents with us this morning.*

*Westshore GSA Youth Group will be meeting on Monday, Jan. 8th. from 7 to 8 pm.*

*Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters K through N please bring cookies or treats during the month of January. Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated as are homemade cookies or bars.*

*Please join us in Fellowship Hall following worship service today for "How to Spot Phishing Scam Emails - A Tech Talk." This will be the first in a series of 3 very brief presentations about specific technology subjects. The 10-minute presentation (plus a question/answer time) packs lots of useful information without a huge time commitment. Plus, there'll be snacks!*

*Exercise classes have resumed on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9-10.  
Drumming exercise class on Thursday mornings from 9-10. Cost for each class is \$3.*

*Let's Make A Mess! Painting Class will be January 17, 2024 – 1:00 pm  
This class is an Acrylic Liquid Pour Art. Please sign up for the class at the Welcome Center if you can join us. Look for a material list of items to bring to class.*

*No Name will meet Thursday, January 18 at 5:30 pm at Fricano's in Muskegon.  
Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you will be attending! Host is Barb Wenk.*

*Souper Bowl Sunday after Church on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are able to join us. If you can contribute a soup or chili, please let us know what kind. Price of admission is a canned good or goods. Sponsored by Congregational Life.*

*If you would be interested in ordering alter flowers honoring a deceased loved one, an anniversary, a newborn or someone recovering from an illness or surgery please contact Ann in the office. Cost of the arrangement is \$35.*