

# 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 12, 2025**

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

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

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
JANUARY 12, 2025**

**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**PRELUDE**

*Der Tag der ist so freudenreich*, by J.S. Bach

**GATHERING PRAYER**

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

***And also with you.***

Let us pray.

***Holy One...***

***You give us water...it quenches our thirst  
it cleanses our bodies, it symbolizes a bond.***

***Holy One...***

***You give us fire...it gives us warmth in the cold  
it offers the guidance of light  
it, too, symbolizes a bond.***

***Holy One...***

***You give us love... it flows through the water  
it ignites the fire deep within us  
it IS the bond that we receive  
through the water...through the fire...  
by the Holy Spirit.***

***Thank you, Holy One,  
for Your claim upon us and our lives.  
Amen.***

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## OPENING HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word*

O ra - diant 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.

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**A**s the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

## **MESSAGE**

A PEP TALK

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### When Jesus Came to Jordan

1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John,  
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,  
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;

he did not come for par - don but as the sin - less one.  
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.  
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - ery bond - age break.

He came to share re - pent - ance with all who mourn their sins,  
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,  
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.  
the hid - den years had end - ded, the age of grace be - gan.  
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

## **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**

*Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, by J.S. Bach*

## **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

*Spirit of the Living God*

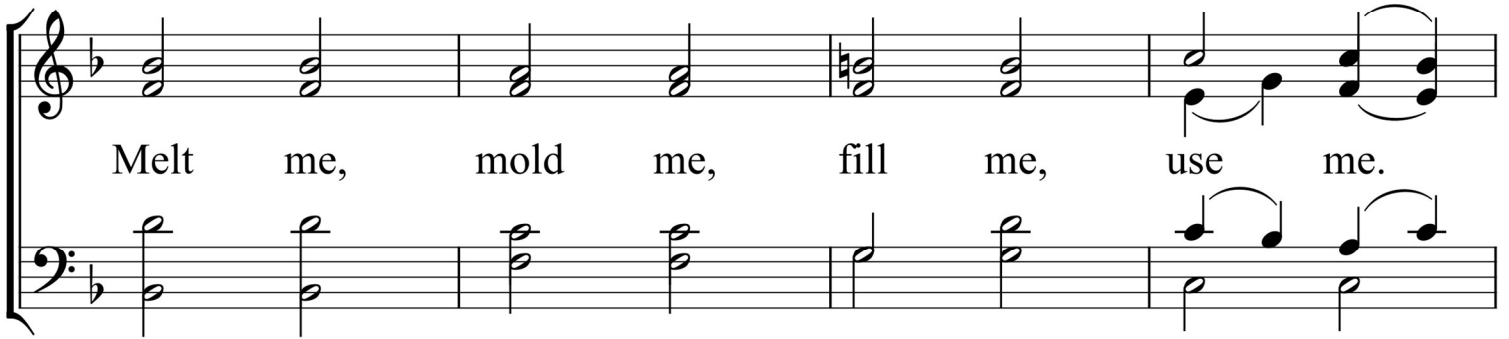
\*Those who wish may stand\*



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me;



Spi - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.



Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Text: Daniel Iverson, 1926 © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music, Tune: IVERSON, Daniel Iverson, 1926

## BLESSING AND SENDING

### POSTLUDE

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

# Today's Service

Rev. Dan Barnum-Steggerda

Dr. Michael Match

John Mattson

Tom Linacre

Blake Filius

Guest Pastor

Music Director/Cantor

Organist

Liturgist/Prayers of the People

Audio and Video

*All music reprinted by permission under ONELICENSE #A-727828*

*Sanctuary Flowers are sponsored by Trina and Eddie Jankowski in memory of Trina's mother 1 yr. passing and in memory of her father's birthday.*

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

*Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters K-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.*

*Just a reminder our church office winter hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10—2.*

*Let's Make A Mess! Painting Class will be January 15, 2025 – 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 or contact Nancy Doctor or Barb Kartes.*

*Veterans of the Cross-The Christmas Fund: We collected at our Christmas Eve Service but there is still time for those who wish to donate.*

*Popcorn, Treats, And Trivia: Join the Outreach Task Force in Fellowship Hall after Worship on January 19, for some fellowship, food, and fun  
On International Popcorn Day!*

*Sunday, Jan. 19 the community is invited to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative March & Legacy Celebration. Meet at 4:30 pm at the Central United Methodist parking lot at 1011 Second St. to march in unity to the Mount Zion COGIC at 188 W. Muskegon Ave. for the celebration program from 5-6 pm. Sponsored by Muskegon Public School CCLC Impact Afterschool Program, Hackley Public Library, Central United Methodist, Mount Zion COGIC.*

*Sunday, February 9 please join Congregational Life for a fun game of Trivia during coffee hour.*

## **OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY**

"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love."

*Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21*