



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 21, 2024

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 21, 2024

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*

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

The glory of the Lord shines forth.
Come, let us adore him!

PRELUDE

Cantilena, by Joseph Rheinberger

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.

**Give us grace, O God, to answer readily the call
of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people
the Good News of repentance, that we and the whole
world may perceive the glory of your love;
this we ask in Jesus' name.**

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

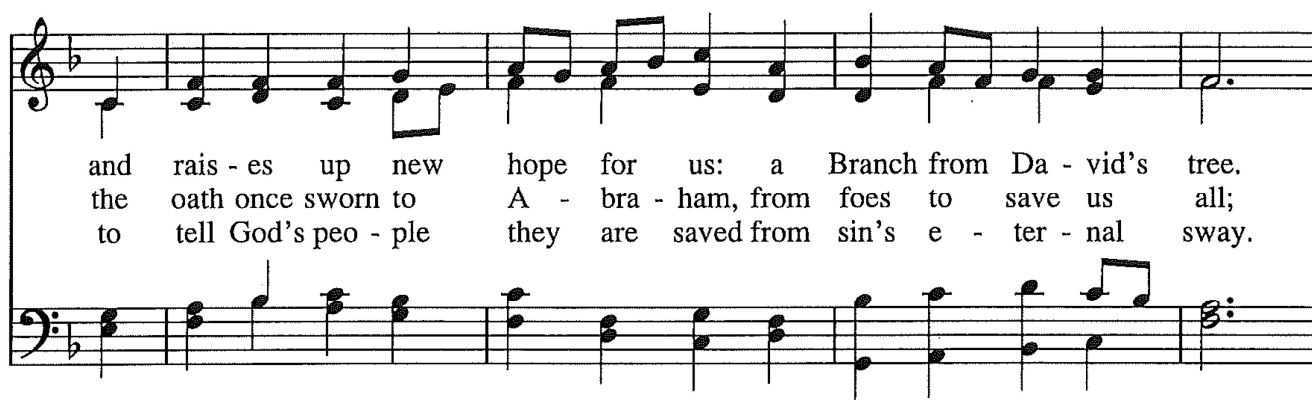
OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

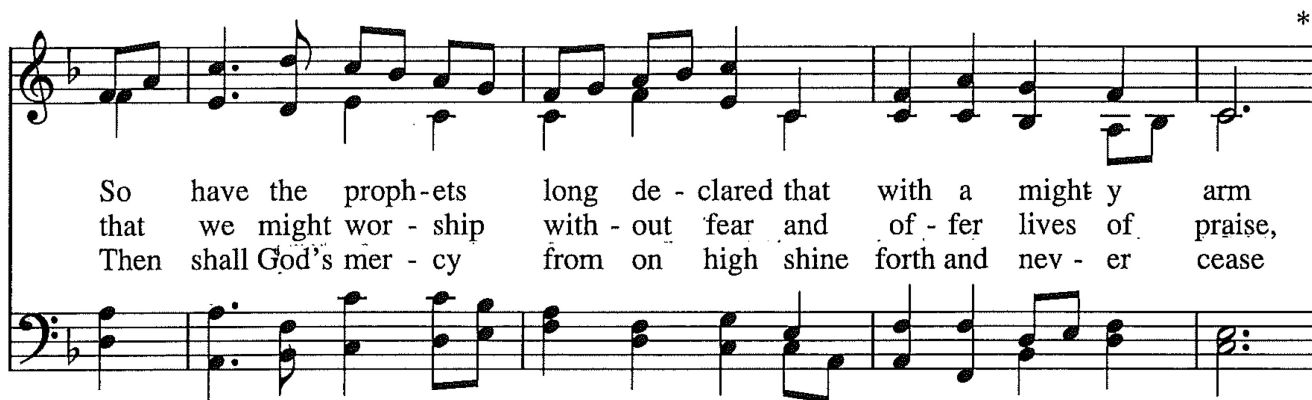
Blessed Be the God of Israel



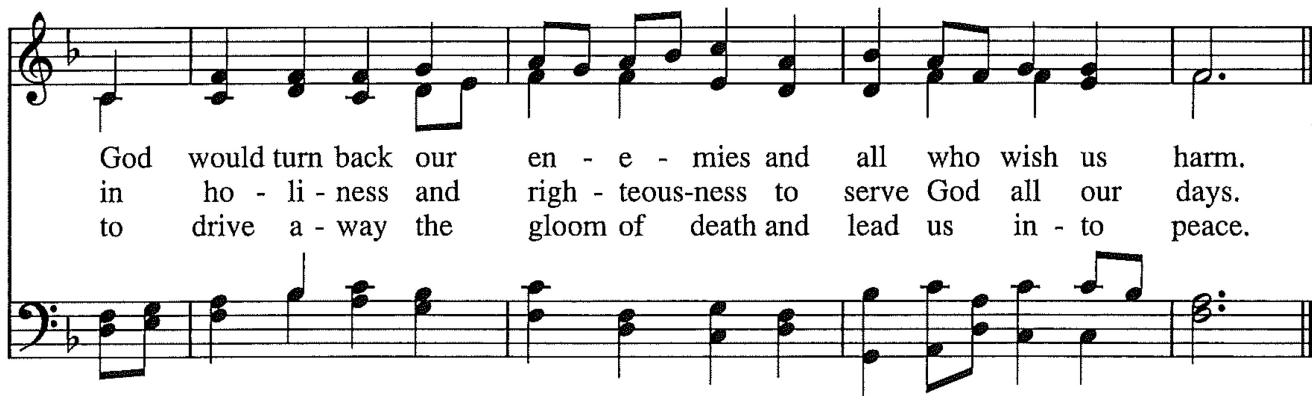
1. Bless'd be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2. With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3. My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de - clared that with a might y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Marie Ann Brandow

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways, by Michael Burkhardt

Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John. He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe, and slave, but there within the river the sign was birth and grave.

Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn; it seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form. The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice: "You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice."

We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place. We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace. But now beside this water again a voice is heard, "You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord."

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MESSAGE

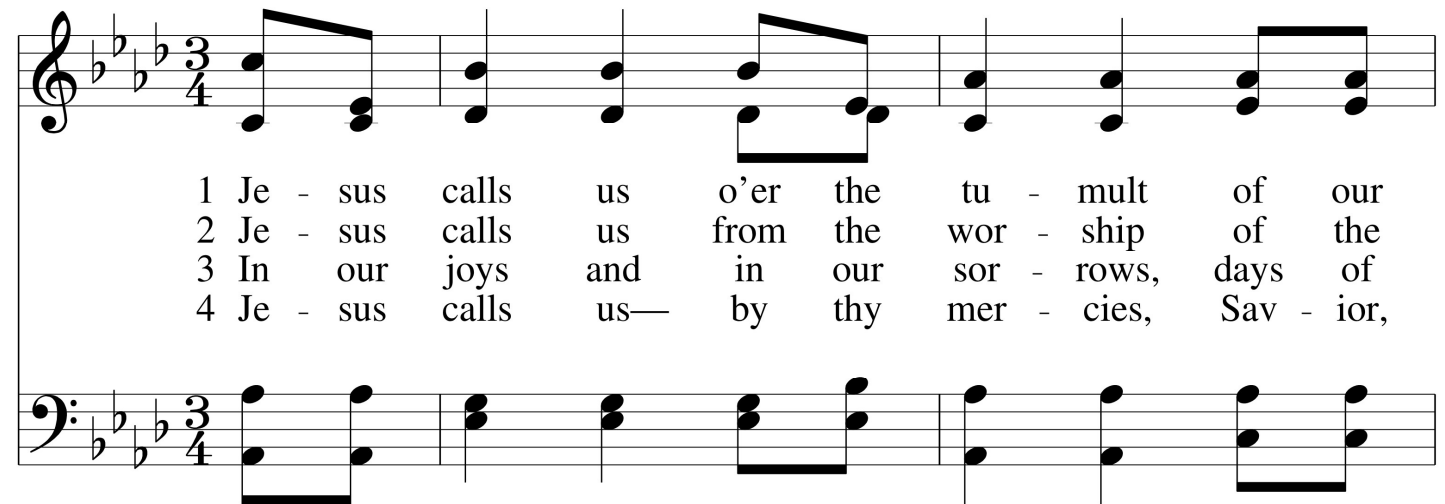
CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

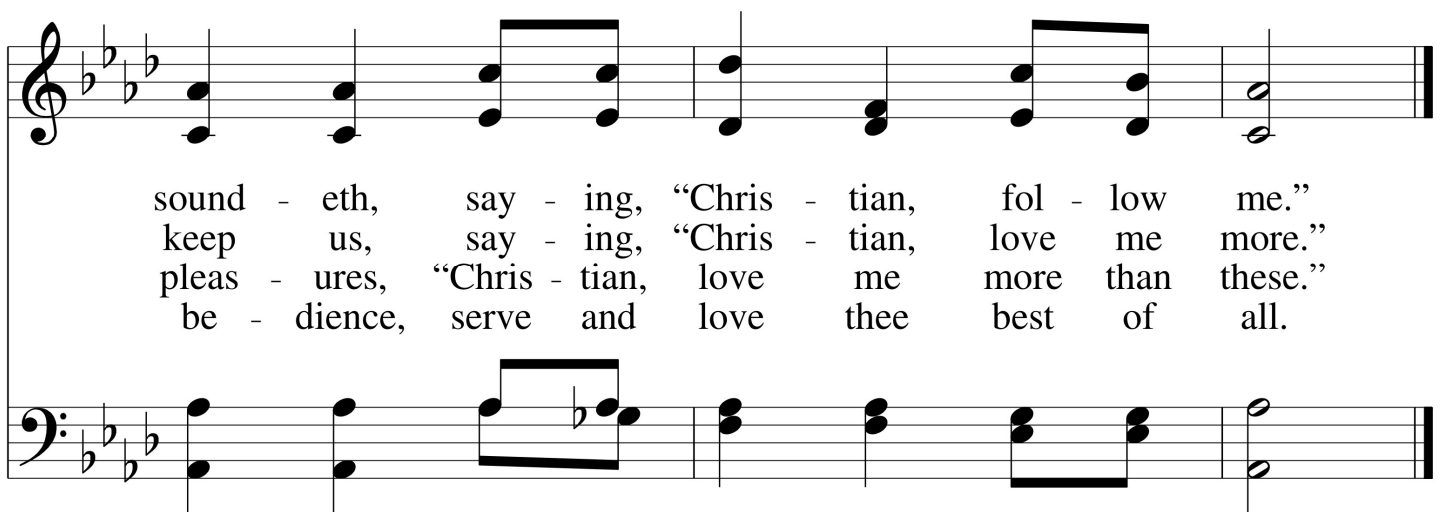
Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult



1 Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our
2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
4 Je - sus calls us— by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine o -



sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
pleas - ures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

WORDS: Cecil F. Alexander (1818-1895)
MUSIC: William H. Jude (1851-1922)

GALILEE
8.7.8.7.

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

The Summons, by John Bell

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow
you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps
show. Thus I'll move and live and grown in you and you in me.

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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

O Jesus I have Promised

Those who wish may stand



O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to
O let me hear you speak - ing in
O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to
serve you to the end; re - main for - ev - er
ac - cents clear and still, a - bove the storms of
all who fol - low you that where you are in
near me, my Sav - ior and my Friend;
pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will!
glo - ry your ser - vant shall be, too;
I shall not fear life's strug - gles
O speak to re - as - sure me,
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised
if you are by my side,
to has - ten or con - trol!
to serve you to the end;
nor wan - der from the path - way
O speak, and make me lis - ten,
O give me grace to fol - low
if you will be my guide.
O guar - dian of my soul!
my Sav - ior and my my Friend!

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Choral Song, by Samuel Sabastian Wesley

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Pastor
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director/Cantor
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Song Leaders
Dan Barnum-Steggerda	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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Altar flowers are sponsored by Stocky Holly in honor of her very supportive family.

We celebrate the sacrament of baptism for Marie Brandow She is the daughter of Adam and Katie Brandow. Her Uncle John and Aunt Alicia Schaub are Marie's godparents.

We welcome her relatives from Essexville and Bay City.

A white carnation is in memory of Marilyn Andersen who passed away Tuesday, January 9, 2024. Marilyn was a lifelong member of FCC. A service will be held this summer.

Where did that file go? Have trouble finding a computer file or an old email? Please join Elisabeth Major after worship service today in Fellowship Hall for Tips to Organize and Find Files and Emails - A Tech Talk. Second in a series of 3 very brief presentations about specific technology subjects, the 10-minute presentation packs lots of useful information without a huge time commitment. Plus, there'll be snacks!

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 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.

Every communion Sunday we ask that you consider bringing in even one canned good or non-perishable food item and place it in the bushel basket in the Narthex.

This will go to Food Pantry clients. Many thanks!

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.

Souper Bowl Sunday after Church on Feb. 11th. 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 altar 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.