

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 28, 2024

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

<p>THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 28, 2024</p>
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WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

Sharing the Peace of Christ

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

PRELUDE

ABBOT'S LEIGH, Arranged by David Cherwien

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.

**Eternal God, companion of all who seek you,
and seeker of all who turn away,
draw near to us so that we may
draw near to you, and grant us
grace to love and to serve you
that we may find in your will
our true freedom; through Jesus Christ,
the way, the truth, and the life.**

Amen.

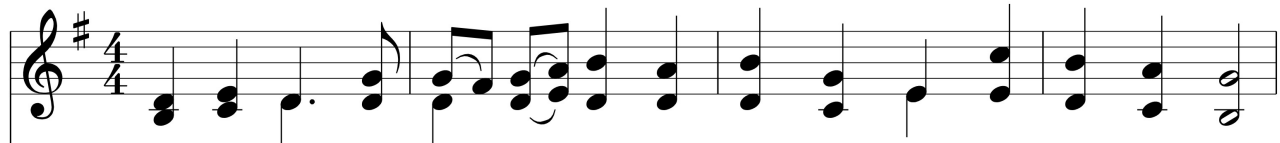
From "Book of Worship, United Church of Christ"

Those who wish may stand

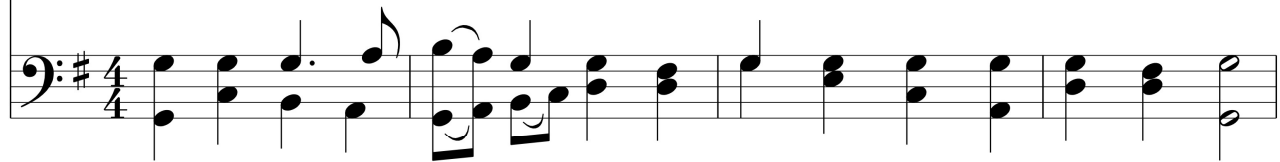
OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

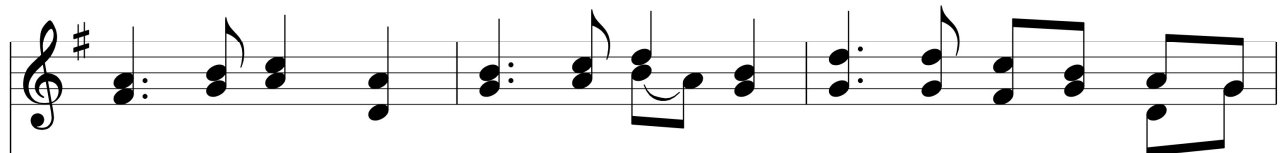
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;



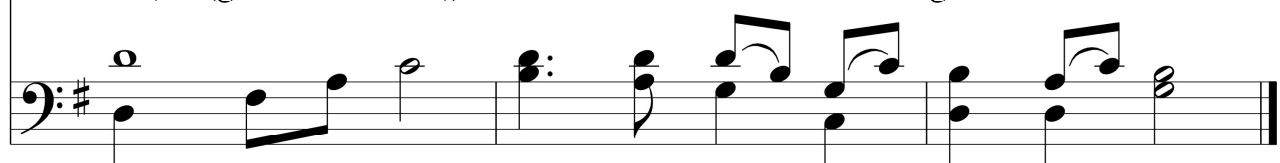
I am weak, but thou art might-y—hold me with thy power-ful hand:
let the fire and cloud-y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through:
bear me through the swell-ing cur-rent, land me safe on Ca-naan's side:



Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no
Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more, (want no more,) feed me till I want no more.
shield, (strength and shield,) be thou still my strength and shield.
thee, (give to thee,) I will ev - er give to thee.



SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 111

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Take My Life and Let It Be, by Hal Hopson

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee:
Take my moments and my days: Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and keep them true: Lord, may they always speak of you.
Take my thoughts, my very will. Your true purpose to fulfill.
Take me, Lord, and yours I'll be. Yours for all eternity.
Lord, in mercy, hear my plea. May I now your loved one be.
Loving for your love to see: Oh hear me, hear me Lord.
Amen.

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MESSAGE

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Where Charity and Love Prevail

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some lines featuring a fermata. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final line of the hymn ends with a double bar line.

Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail,
With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear
Let strife a - mong us be un - known,
there God is ev - er found;
true char - i - ty we learn;
let all con - ten - tion cease;
Brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love,
Let us with heart and mind and strength
Be Christ the glo - ry that we seek,
by love are we thus bound.
now love God in re - turn.
be ours Christ's ho - ly peace.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1961; alt, Tune: CHRISTIAN LOVE, Paul Benoit, 1961, © World Library Publications, Inc.

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.**

(Many Congregationalists in the early days felt that using the Lord's Prayer as a fixed part of worship was far too "liturgical." The traditional form in this Congregation uses "debts" and "debtors," but you are free to join in with whatever version you know.)

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, by J.S. Bach

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,
Holy wisdom, Love most bright,
Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring
Soar to uncreated light.
Word of God our flesh that fashioned
With the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to truth unknown,
Soaring, dying round thy throne.

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.**

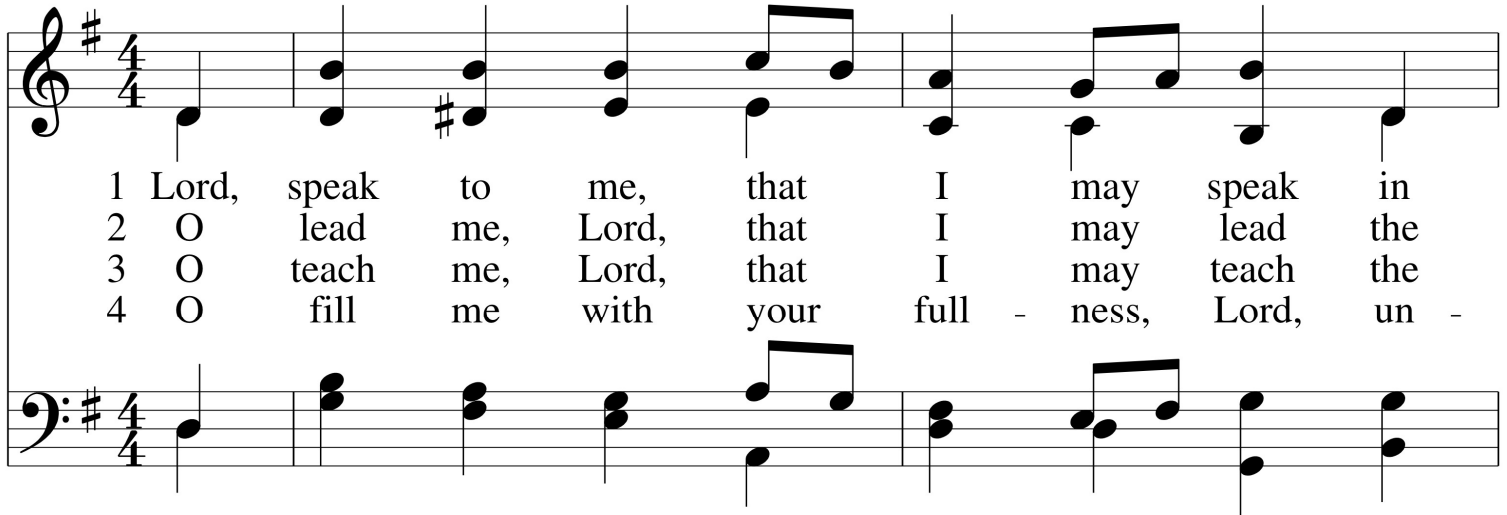
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

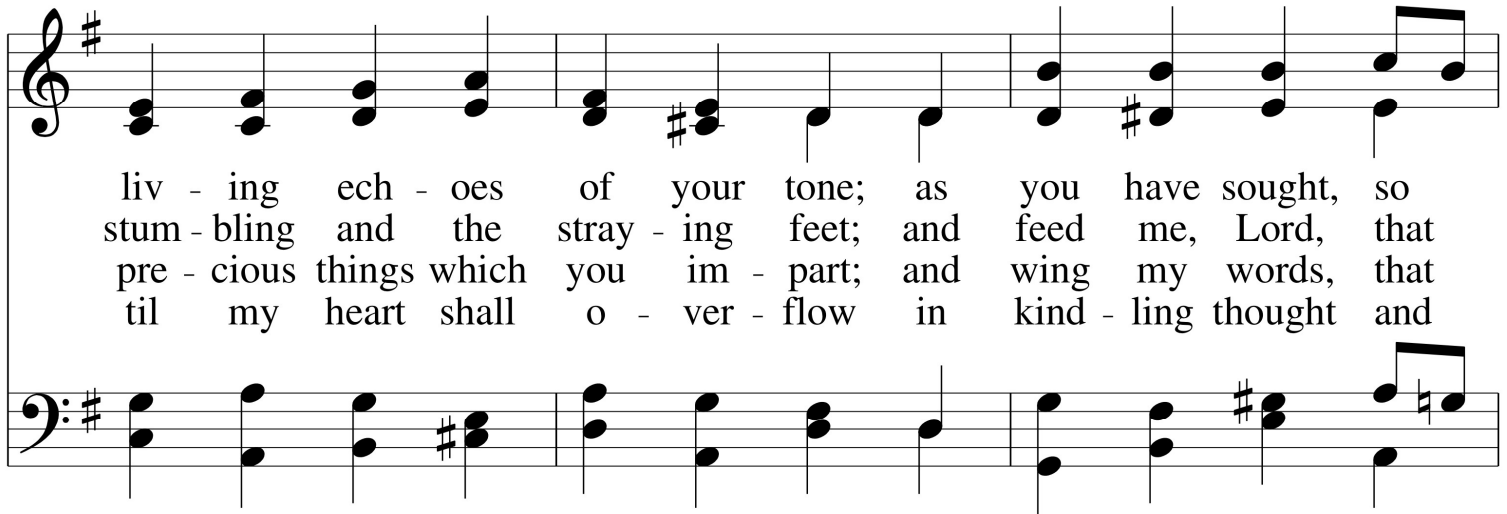
CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak



1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in
2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the
3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the
4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
stum - bling and the stray - ing feet; and feed me, Lord, that
pre - cious things which you im - part; and wing my words, that
til my heart shall o - ver - flow in kind - ling thought and



let me seek your wan - dering chil - dren, lost, a - lone.
I may feed your hun - gry ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal (1836-1879), alt.
MUSIC: Robert A. Schumann (1810-1856)

CANONBURY
L.M.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

THAXTED, Arranged by David Cherwien

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar
Dr. Michael Match
John Mattson
The Motet Choir
Roy Portenga
Blake Filius

Pastor
Music Director
Organist
Song Leaders
Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Audio and Video

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*No Name will meet Thursday, February 8th at 5:30 pm at Whitlow's in Muskegon.
Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you will be attending!
Host is Dave and Nita Wikman*

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 O through S please bring cookies or treats during the month of February. Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated as are homemade cookies or bars.

If no one remembers my birthday, why is it a bad password? Please join Elisabeth Major after worship service on Sunday January 28th in Fellowship Hall for Tech Savvy Password Tips - A Tech Talk. Last session in a series of 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!

*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 (we would like a count of how many people will be joining us) If you can contribute a soup or chili, please let us know what kind. Price of admission is a canned good(s).

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 (we are set for March 17th). Cost of the arrangement is \$35.

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