

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, February 4, 2024

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The glory of the Lord shines forth.

Come, let us adore him!

PRELUDE

on UNION SEMINARY, by Charles Callahan

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.

**Set us free, O God, from bondage
to our self-centeredness and pride,
and give us the liberty
of that abundant life you have
made known to us in Jesus Christ;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.**

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,
in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;
most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
all praise we would ren - der, O help us to see
al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt.
MUSIC: Welsh melody; harm. John Roberts (1822-1877)

ST. DENIO
11.11.11.11.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether, by Harold Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in thy name,
two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,

Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.

Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

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MESSAGE

DON'T LET THE SUN CATCH YOU CRYIN'

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

On Eagle's Wings

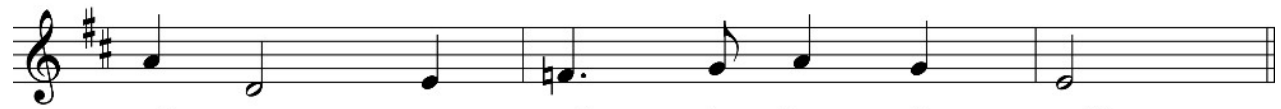
Verse 1



1. You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a -



bide in his shad-ow for life, say to the Lord: "My



ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain



And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the



breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and



hold you in the palm of his hand. 2. The

Verse 2



snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and



fam - ine will bring you no fear: un - der his wings your



ref - uge, his faith - ful - ness your shield.

D.S.

Verse 3

3. You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, nor the

ar - row that flies by day; though thou - sands fall a -

bout you, near you it shall not come.

D.S.

Verse 4

4. For to his an - gels he's giv - en a com - mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

D.S.

♩ Coda

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Meaning of the Sacrament

Communion Prayer

*It is fitting and right...
...and so may we join our voices with your children
in very time and place, and with all the company of heaven
to worship and adore your holy name:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Ru-ler Al - migh - ty;
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo-ry be to you, O God.
Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Music © 1991 Martha McMane

All this we pray in Jesus' name who taught us to say:
**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.**

SHARING THE MEAL

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Arise, Your Light Is Come

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

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

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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FESTAL SONG
S.M.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Menuet gothique, by Leon Boellmann

Today's Service

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Rev. Tim Vander Haar | Pastor |
| Dr. Michael Match | Music Director |
| John Mattson | Organist |
| The Motet Choir | Song Leaders |
| Sue Vander Haar | Liturgist |
| Blake Filius | Audio and Video |
| Tom Linacre | Communion Server |
| Asa & Kristen Orion | Communion Servers |

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*A white carnation is in memory of **Brenda Gasahl** who passed away on January 26, 2024. She was an FCC member and member of the Motet Choir. Our sympathy and prayers are with her family and friends.*

Westshore GSA Youth Group will be meeting on Mondays, 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.

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.

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!

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! Hosts are Dave & Nita Wikman.

FCC Women's Single Group Soup & Salad Luncheon at Judy Dewall's home Tuesday, February 6th at 1 pm. \$5/person will cover the lunch. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call Judy.

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.

Please join us for Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 6:30 pm in sanctuary.

Saturday Breakfast The last Saturday of each month we hold a Saturday Breakfast which is open to the community. The Breakfast is from 9-10:30 am and is free to all. Please contact Donna Lachniet if you are willing to volunteer.

Paint Class Our next paint class will be February 21, at 1:00 pm. We will be using that all-time favorite kitchen cleaning tool, the metal pot scrubber to create a very unique acrylic pour design.

Material List

Canvas any size. Pre primed
Dark back ground color. Black, grey or blue
4-5 bright colors including a metallic.
Metal pot scrubber iron or steel preferred
Palette knife
Pouring medium cups, paper towels, stir sticks, squirt bottles.
Sign up at the Welcome Center Desk!

Congregational Life Department is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Talent Show and Trivia Event Sunday, March 17, 2024 in Fellowship Hall following worship service. Singing, dancing, playing an instrument, or other talent is welcome. **If you have a talent to share**, please sign up at the Welcome Center and include what talent you would like to do.

Please join us to pray in the spirit of **Taizé** at FCC on Thursday, February 22 at 7:30 pm

Join in on up to date FCC events and information. Also a direct link to our on-line worship service. Just email michaelm@fccmuskegon.org and ask to be put on our Thursday email.

Please join us for a community concert at FCC on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 7:00 pm. **"Requiem for the Living"** by Dan Forrest featuring Shoreline Community Orchestra, FCC Motet Choir, Muskegon Chamber Choir, and Muskegon Community College Choir.

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