

# 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 9, 2025**

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

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

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
FEBRUARY 9, 2025**

**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**PRELUDE**

"Introduction" & "Hymn" from *Phantasy on NICEA*, by Piet Post

**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.

**O God, whom we so easily call Almighty,  
our faith proclaims that you govern all things,  
and yet we understand so little of what that truly means.  
Help us to seek understanding with all our hearts  
and still to trust you for what we do not know.  
Grant us the peace of mind that comes  
from following the footsteps of Jesus,  
through whom we know your love.  
Amen.**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## OPENING HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God, Almighty*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though we know but dim - ly,



Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es -  
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y  
Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not



ty. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
sea; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,  
see, You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.  
Per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 6:1-11a

**I**n the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" And he said, "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed." Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate;

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*Jesus Calls Us*, by Joy Patterson

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;  
Day by day his voice is sounding, saying, "Christian, follow me."  
Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,  
From each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."  
In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, s  
Till he calls in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."  
Jesus calls us! By your mercies, Savior, may we hear your call,  
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

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## MESSAGE

HOW LONG O LORD?

\*Those who wish may stand\*

# HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## Dear God, Embracing Humankind

1 Dear God, em - brac - ing hu - man - kind, for -  
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be -  
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O  
 4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till  
 5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your

give our fool - ish ways; re - clothe us in our  
 side the Syr - ian sea, the gra - cious call - ing  
 calm of hills a - bove! There Je - sus met you  
 all our striv - ings cease; take from our souls the  
 cool - ness and your balm; let sense be numb, let

right - ful mind, in pur - er lives your  
 of your Word, let us, like them, by  
 prayer - ful - ly: the si - lence of e -  
 strain and stress, and let our or - dered  
 flesh re - tire; speak through the earth - quake,

serv - ice find, in deep - er rev - 'rence, praise.  
 Spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - l'wers be.  
 ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.  
 lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.  
 wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm. A - men.

Words: John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807–1892, alt.  
 Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

U.S.A./England  
 8.6.8.8.6.  
 REST

## 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 REFLECTION

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

*There's A Wideness in God's Mercy, by Calvin Hampton*

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
There's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;  
There is mercy with the savior; there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;  
There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,  
And our lives would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

Text by Jeanette Lindholm/Frederick Faber, © 2002 Augsburg Fortress  
Tune © 1977, Arrangement © 2015 by GIA Publications, Inc.

## 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\*

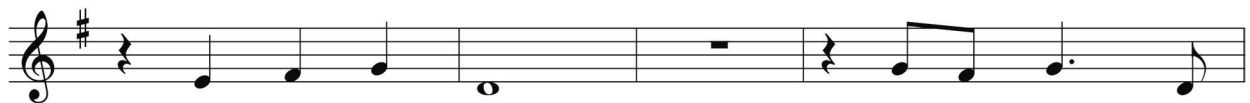
### Here I Am, Lord



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my  
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my  
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin  
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them.  
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them.



My hand will save. I, who made the  
They turn a - way. I will break their  
My hand will save. Fin - est bread I



stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.  
will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

#### Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

## BLESSING AND SENDING

### POSTLUDE

"Finale" & "Hymn" from *Phantasy on NICEA*, by Piet Post

## Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Pastor
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
John Mattson	Organist
Paula Whisman	Clarinetist
The Motet Choir	Song Leaders
Megan Perreault	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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

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

Please join us during coffee hour today for a **lively game of Trivia**. Sponsored by Congregational Life Department. A big thank you to Diane and Tom Goodman for emceeding

**Cookies for Sunday Fellowship** - Last names with the letters O through S for February.

**Saturday Breakfast Community Meal at FCC:** February 22 from 9:00 – 10:30 AM

**Progressive Christianity Foundations - Faith Journey Discussion Series**

Progressive Christianity – What is your spiritual path? Sunday, February 23, 2025 – 11:45 am.

**Let's Make A Mess Paint Class** is Wednesday, February 19th at 1:00 pm.

Sign Up sheet and Materials List are at the Welcome Center.

FCC Hosts **Mobile Food Pantry** each first Saturday of the month in our parking lot. Volunteers are welcome to show up at 9 a.m. wearing comfortable shoes and outdoor clothes.

Sunday, March 16th, Congregational Life will host a Talent Show during Coffee Hour.

**Applications to perform must be received on or before March 9th.**

### FCC IS AN 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*