

# 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, March 3, 2024**

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

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



**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**Jazz Sunday**  
**March 3, 2024**

**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

*Sharing the Peace of Christ*

**PRELUDE**

*Jazz Ensemble*

**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.

**God of all compassion,  
our risen Lord greets us with the words,  
"Peace be with you!"**

**But discouraged by our weakness, and by  
the wounds inflicted by others or ourselves  
through sin and selfishness  
how can we find peace?**

**Remind us, we pray, that the power is not  
in ourselves, but in You.**

**By your Spirit, defend us from despair,  
fill us with hope, and give us strength  
to move forward in faith and love.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus.**

**Amen.**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## HYMN

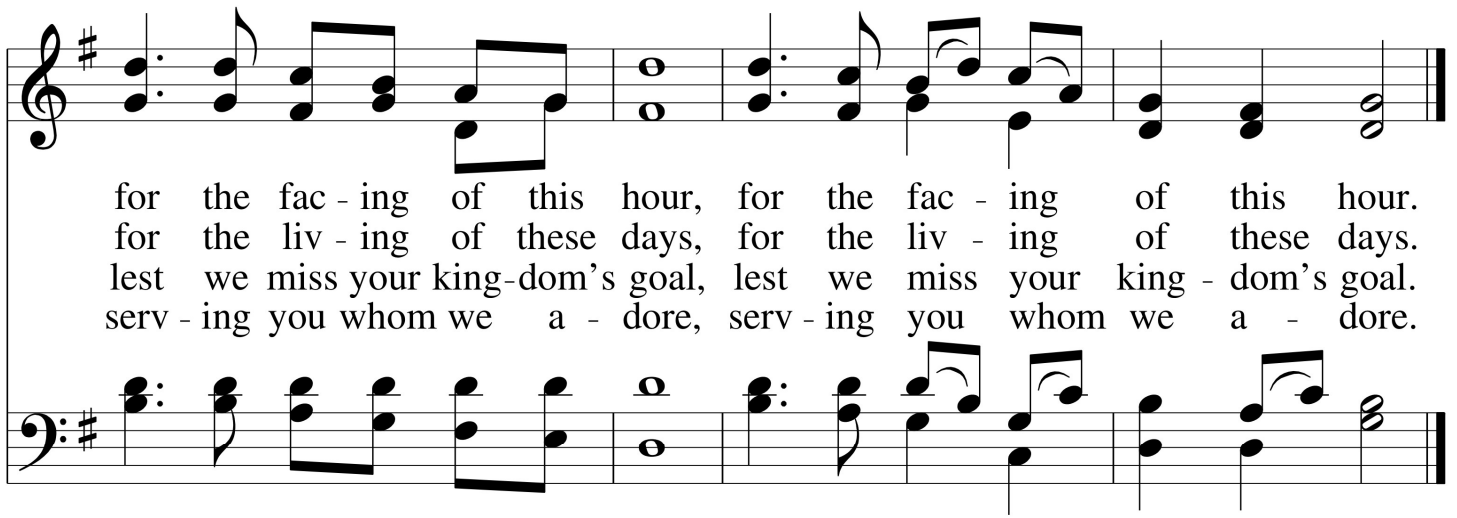
\*Those who wish may stand\*

### God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -  
3 Heal your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient Church's sto - ry, bring its  
sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us— free our  
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

WORDS: Harry E. Fosdick (1878-1969), alt.  
 MUSIC: John Hughes (1873-1932)

CWM RHONDDA  
 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Psalm 19

**T**he heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

## MUSICAL SELECTION

*Jazz Ensemble*

## MESSAGE

PAY ATTENTION

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### O God of Earth and Altar

O God of earth and al - tar, bow down and hear our  
From all that ter - ror teach - es, from lies of pen and  
A - wak - en us to ac - tion and forge us in - to

cry; Our earth - ly rul - ers fal - ter, our  
voice, From all the eas - y speech - es, that  
one, de - fy - ing sect and fac - tion; O

peo - ple drift and die; The walls of gold en -  
make our hearts re - jice, From val - ue's pro - fan -  
God, your will be done! Op - pres - sive sys - tems

tomb us, the swords of scorn di - vide; Take  
a - tion, from hon - or sac - ri - ficed, From  
snare us; our ap - a - thies in - crease. Great

not your thun - der from us, but take a - way our pride.  
 sleep and from dam - na - tion, de - liv - er us, O Christ!  
 God, in mer - cy spare us for just - ice and for peace!

Text: Gilbert K Chesterton (1906) and Jane Parker Huber, © 1985, Tune: LLANGLOFFAN, *Traditional Welsh Melody*, Harm. David Evans © 1927 Oxford University Press

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## OFFERTORY INVITATION

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Jazz Ensemble*

## 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

## CELEBRATING 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

*...and now as Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold 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.**



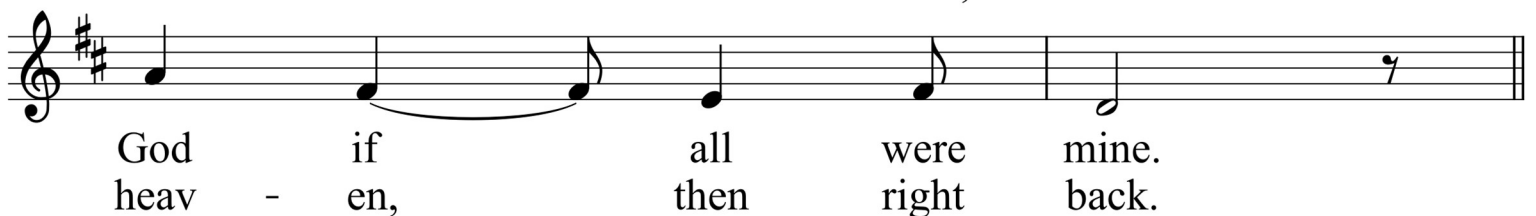
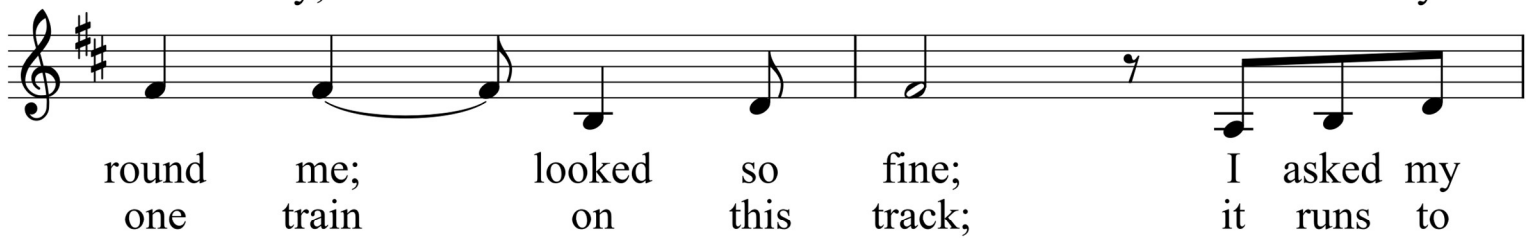
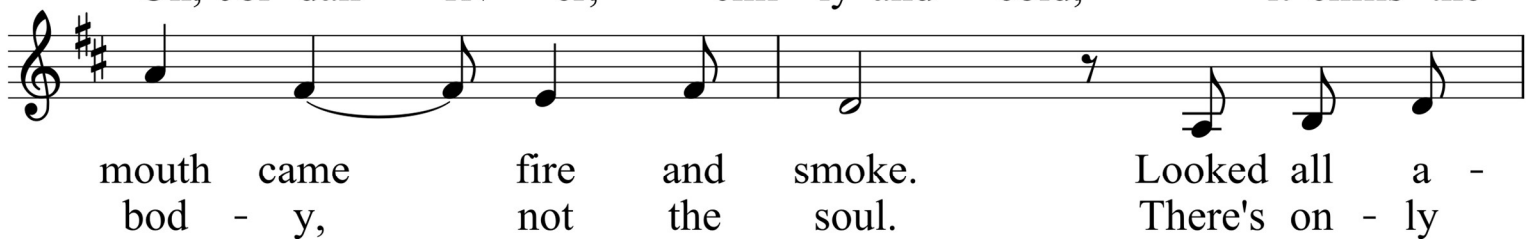
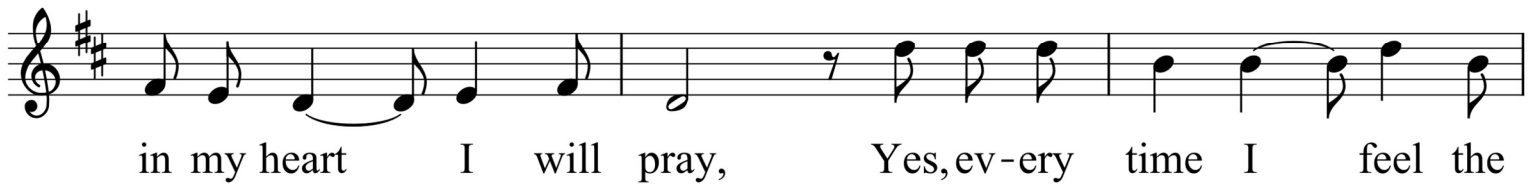
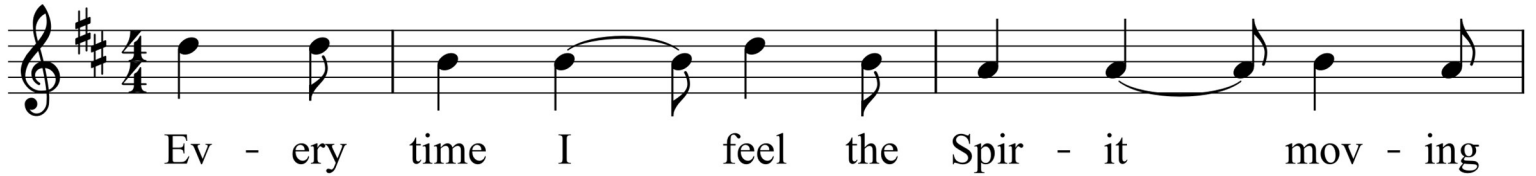
# SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## CLOSING HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*



# BLESSING AND SENDING

## POSTLUDE

*Jazz Ensemble*

## Today's Service

Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
John Mattson	Organist
Dan Giacobassi	Flute/Sax
Greg Miller	Guitar
Nathan Emerson	Bass
Steve Harris	Drums
Roy Portenga	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video
Communion Servers	Tom & Karen Chadwick, Shirley Albers

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*A special thank you to our guest musicians for their musical talents this morning.*

*Alter flowers are sponsored by Dr. Michael Match in celebration of his sister's last chemo treatment scheduled to occur on 3/4/24*

*Cookies are again appreciated for our Coffee Fellowship Sundays after worship. Those whose last names begin with the letters T-Z please bring if you can, cookies or bars for the month of March. Gluten and sugar free cookies, or home made are also welcome.*

*The women of FCC are hosting a celebration honoring Women's History Month, on Sunday, March 10, 2024 in Fellowship Hall following our regular church service. Please join us for a brief presentation by Shirley Albers entitled "Sorority, Equality, and LiberTea. The focus will be on the role of tea in the Women's Suffrage Movement in America. The presentation will be followed by a tea party with special refreshments provided by the Single Women's group of FCC.*

*Please join in the fun on Sunday, March 17 for a Talent Show during coffee time. Those who wish to participate in the show please turn in your completed form to the Welcome Center this morning, or see Sue Vander Haar.*

*Single Women's Group will meet on Tue. March 5 at 1:00 pm at Egg Roll House. Call Judy Dewall 734-478-3716 for reservations or sign up at the Welcome Center.*

*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.*

*Just a reminder that GSA meets every Monday from 7-8 pm at FCC.*

*Come One! Come All to the "Roamin' in the Gloamin'" St. Patrick's Day Talent Show on March 17 in the Fellowship Hall following worship service. Interested in sharing a talent with us? If so please fill out a Talent Show Registration Form (minors welcome with parent permission), @ Welcome Center and return form by March 10. Please contact Sue Vander Haar with questions. 231-557-7714-Congregational Life Dept.*

*"Let's Make A Mess" Acrylic paint class on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM*

*If you would be interested in ordering altar flowers, please contact Ann in the office. Cost of the arrangement is \$35.*

### **First Congregational Church, UCC 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*

