

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 9, 2025

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 9, 2025**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Cantilena, by Josef 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.

**O God, you formed us from the dust of the earth,
and breathed into us the breath of life.**

**In our stubbornness we so often turn away,
but in the face of Jesus may we be reminded
of your persistence in loving us
and turn again toward you.**

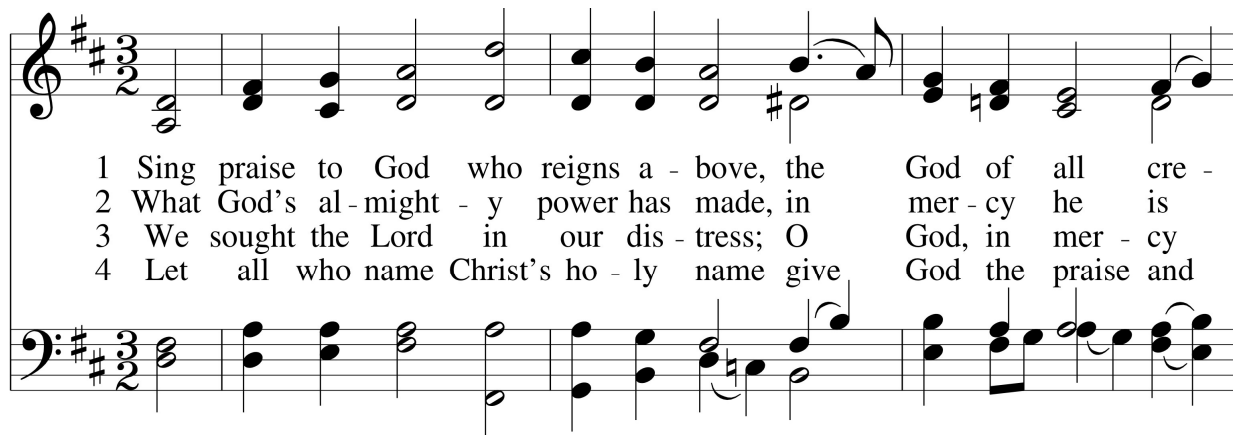
Amen.

Those who wish may stand

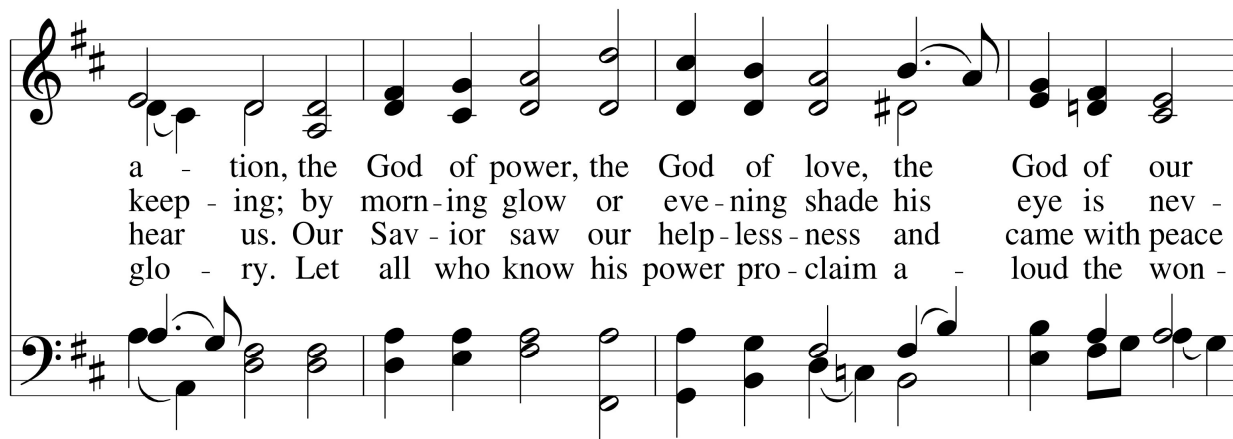
OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

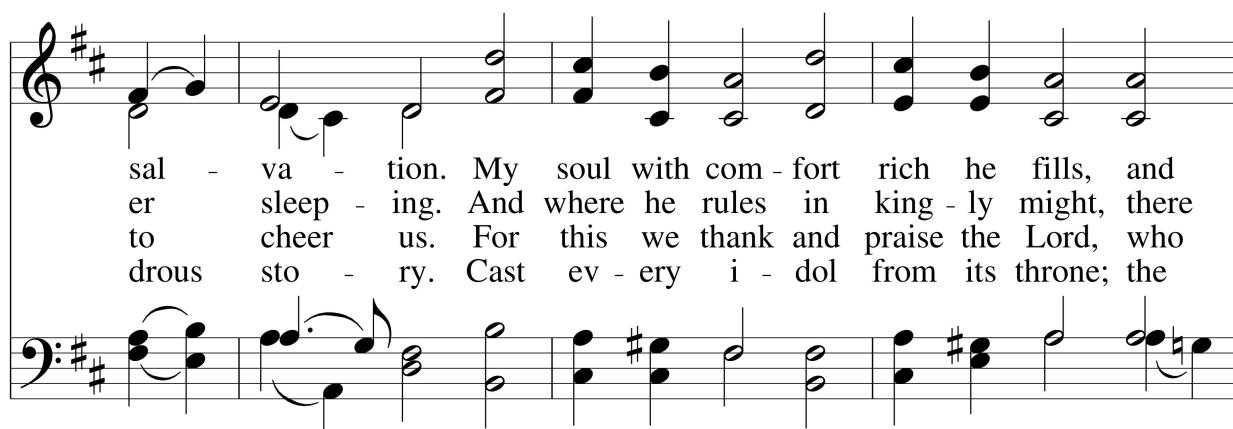
Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
2 What God's al - might - y power has made, in mer - cy he is
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
4 Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God the praise and



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our
keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his eye is nev -
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness and came with peace
glo - ry. Let all who know his power pro - claim a - loud the won -



sal - va - tion. My soul with com - fort rich he fills, and
er sleep - ing. And where he rules in king - ly might, there
to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who
drous sto - ry. Cast ev - ery i - dol from its throne; the



ev - ery grief he gent - ly stills: to God all praise and glo - ry!
all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
is by one and all a - dored: to God all praise and glo - ry!
Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry!

WORDS: Johann J. Schütz (1640-1690); tr. Frances Cox (1812-1897)

MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesänge, Berlin, 1566; harm. Heinrich Reimann (1850-1906)

MIT FREUDEN ZART

8.7.8.7.8.8.7.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

CHORAL ANTHEM

On Eagle's Wings, Arr. by Mark Hayes

*And He will raise you up on eagle'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.*

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge,
My Rock in Whom I trust."

And He will raise you up...

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His Wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.

And He will raise you up...

You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day,
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come.

And He will raise you up...

For to His angels He's given a command,
To guard you in all of your ways,
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

And He will raise you up...

© 1979, 1991 New Dawn Music by Michael Joncas

MESSAGE

WILDERNESS COMPANIONS?

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for
As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and
And through these days of pen - i - tence, and
A - bide with us, till when this life of

us did fast and pray, Teach us with you to
did the vic - tory win, O give us strength to
through this Pas - sion - tide, Yes, ev - er - more, in -
suf - fer - ing shall be past, An Eas - ter of un -

mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.
life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.
end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

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

Chant for Lent, by Steven Van Wye

Choir first, then ALL



We a - dore you, O Christ, and we bless you.



You have re - deemed the world!

Copyright © 2018 by GIA Publications, Inc. • All rights reserved

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

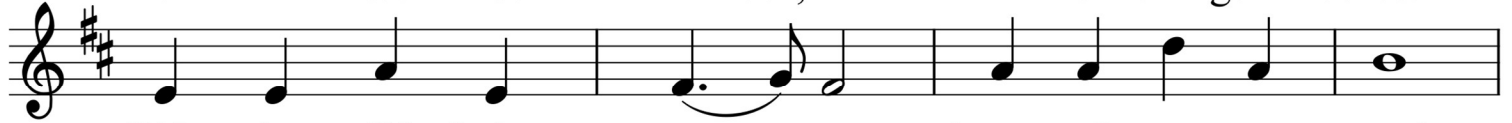
Forward Through The Ages



For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;



move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;
for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.



Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,



man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.



For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,



Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.

Text: Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908, alt; Tune: ST. GERTRUDE, Arthur Sullivan, 1871

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Choral Song, by Samuel Wesley

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Pastor
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Song Leaders
Shirley Albers	Liturgist
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

All music reprinted by permission under ONELICENSE #A-727828

Sanctuary Flowers are "in loving memory of parents, Dr. Max & Betty Stone, from daughter Barbara Stone Wenk and Family."

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters T through Z please bring cookies or treats during the month of **March**. Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated as are homemade cookies or bars.

You Are Invited to **Line Dance With Amy** March 12, 2025 – 6:00 PM

Absolute Beginner Modern Line Dance Class NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
Wednesday Nights, 6 – 7 PM at First Congregational Church, lower level Activity Room.
\$7.00 per session. Come dance with instructor/choreographer Amy Christian!

Talent Show Applications to perform must be received today, March 9th.

Application Forms are available at the Welcome Center for the
Sunday, March 16th, Talent Show during Coffee Hour.

Lest We Forget-Commemoration of the Holocaust- Sunday, March 16th, 3 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 1206 Whitehall Road, North Muskegon.

When you purchase a Meijer Simply Give card during March at the **Henry St/Norton Ave Meijer**, that money will be doubled and then used to purchase pantry items for Love INC pantries! When you donate on March 22nd, Meijer will **TRIPLE your donation**. This means if you buy a \$10 Simply Give card, Meijer will double match it with \$20, making \$30 total! Help fight hunger in Muskegon County by purchasing a Meijer Simply Give card at the **Henry St/Norton Ave Meijer**. Cards can be purchased at the register or at the service counter.

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