



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 10, 2024

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 10, 2024**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

Sharing the Peace of Christ

PRELUDE

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 are the source of our peace.
Your Word, Jesus the Christ,
spoke peace to a world filled with conflict,
and by what he endured
brought us the gift of reconciliation.
Teach us, as people who bear his name,
to follow the example Christ gave us:
May our faith, hope and love
bring peace in the midst of conflict,
and eagerness for the healing of all wounds.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

To God Be the Glory

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The melody consists of 24 measures, with lyrics aligned below the notes. The lyrics are: "To God be the glo - ry, great things he hath done; so O per - fect re - demp-tion, the pur-chase of blood, to Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who ev - ery be - liev - er the prom-ise of God; the great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son; but yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin, and vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves, that pur - er, and high - er and great - er will be our o - pened the life - gate that all may go in. mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives. won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo-ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son, and give him the glo - ry, great things he hath done."

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God, by Carl Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence;
and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

© 1941 by G. Schirmer, Inc.

MESSAGE

CREATED TO DO GOOD

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

For the Healing of the Nations

For the heal-ing of the na-tions, God, we pray with
All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

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

We Adore you, O Christ, 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

There Is a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gil - e - ad, to
make the wound - ed whole, there is a
balm in Gil - e - ad, to heal the sin - sick soul.
Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and
Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, for
think my work's in vain, But then the Ho - ly
Je - sus is your friend, who, if you ask for
Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
knowl - edge, will nev - er fail to lend.

Text: African-American Spiritual, Tune: BALM IN GILEAD, African-American Spiritual

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Pastor
Phil Konczyk	Organist
Jim Hylan	Choir Director
The Motet Choir	Song Leaders
Beth Carrozza	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

All music reprinted by permission under ONELICENSE #A-727828

*Altar flowers are sponsored by Carol and Gary Beatty
in memory of Roy Kroeze, Carol's father.*

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 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.

The women of FCC are hosting a celebration honoring Women's History Month 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.

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 (ex. Singers, dancers, poetry readers, Irish Limericks or jokes (clean), acrobats, musicians, etc.) with us? If so please fill out a Talent Show Registration Form (minors welcome with parent permission), @ Welcome Center and return form TODAY! All those who want to attend and join in the fun please sign the attendance sheet @ welcome Center before March 10 so we can make sure we have enough refreshments. Donations to cover the cost of refreshments are welcome. Please contact Sue Vander Haar with questions. 231-557-7714-Congregational Life Dept.

*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!*

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