

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 16, 2025

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 16, 2025**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Jesu meine Freude, Arr. by Paul Manz

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, open our hearts to the truth
of your limitless love,
that we may see you with the clarity
that Jesus did
and seek to shape our lives accordingly.
This we ask in Christ's name.
Amen.**

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

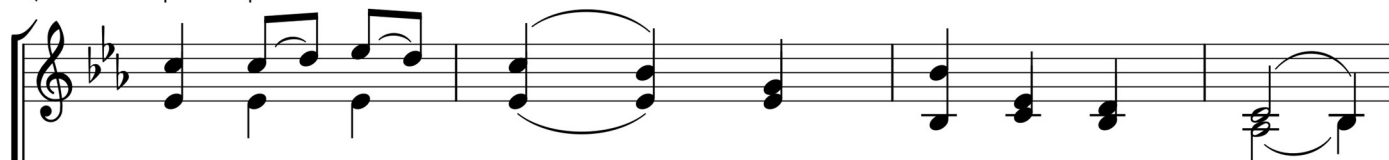
Be Now My Vision



1. Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2. Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3. Rich - es I need not nor life's emp - ty praise,
4. Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part;
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heav'n's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!



You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.



SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

CHORAL ANTHEM

Christ Be Near at Either Hand, by Andrew Wright
Joseph Dixon, soloist

Christ be near at either hand, Christ behind, before me stand,
Christ with me where'er I go, Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in my head and mind, Christ within my soul enshrined,
Christ control my wayward heart; Christ abide and ne'er depart.

Christ my life and only way, Christ my lantern night and day;
Christ be my unchanging friend, Guide and shepherd to the end.

Christ the King and Lord of all Find me ready at his call;
Christ receive my service whole, Hand and body, heart and soul.

Christ the King of kings descend And of tyrants make an end;
Christ on us and all below Concord, love, and peace bestow.

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MESSAGE

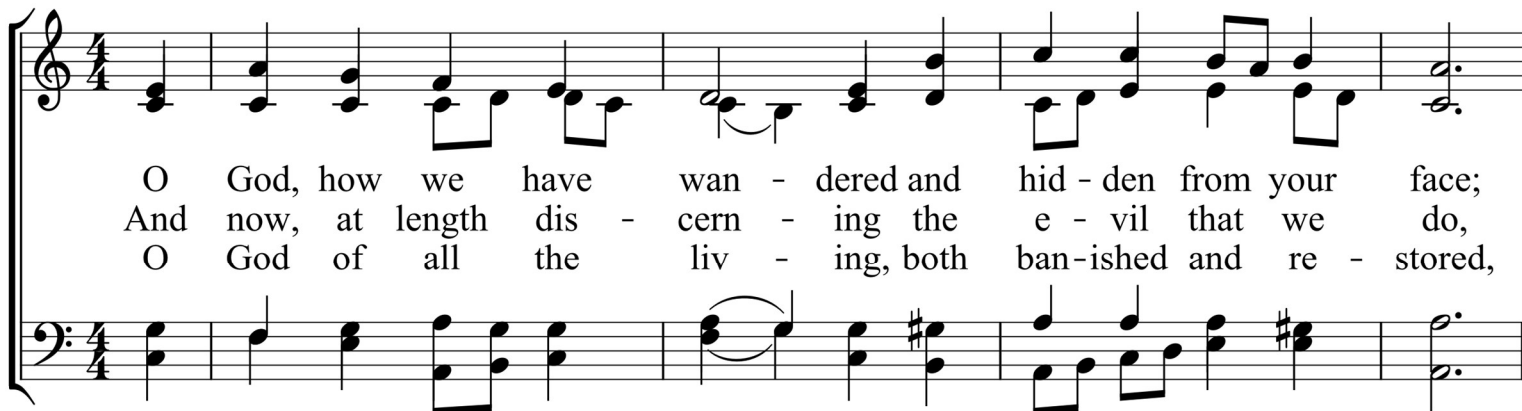
UNTIL THE TIME COMES

Those who wish may stand

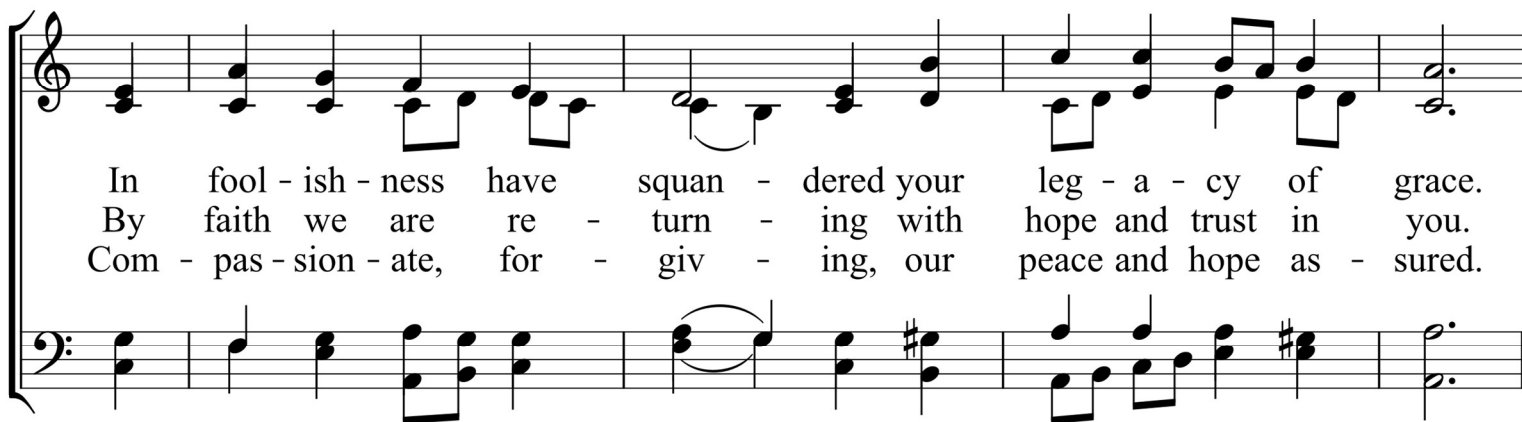
HYMN

Those who wish may stand

O God, How We Have Wandered



O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
And now, at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.



But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch our your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

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!

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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

May The Road Ride Up To Meet You

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be
ev - er at your back. May the sun shine warm up -
on your face and the rains fall soft up - on your fields.
And un - til we meet a - gain, and un - til we meet a - gain,
may you be held in the hol - low of God's hand.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The final note of the last line is marked with a fermata and a smiley face symbol (☺).

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BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Processional on CRUCIFER, Arr. by Donald Busarow

Today's Service

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

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

Please join us in Fellowship Hall today, for a **"Lucky, Leaping, Leprechaun" Talent Show** during Coffee Hour. A big thank you to the Congregational Life members for hosting.

Let's Make A Mess **Paint Class** is Wednesday, March 19th at 1:00 pm.
Sign Up sheet and Materials List are at the Welcome Center.

Join the Motet Choir, Canterbury Ringers, and Chamber Orchestra on Sunday March 30th at 3:00pm for a **Lenten Concert** featuring the Fauré Requiem. All are welcome, no tickets needed!

FCC hosts the free **Saturday Breakfast** Community Meal at FCC on **March 29**. Join us from 9:00 – 10:30 am for a nutritious, hot meal in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Donna Lachniet or just show up by 8:30 am to volunteer or to share a meal with friends and neighbors. Coinciding with the Breakfast Schedule, "Cowboy" Tom Hardy offers a chapel service for all who wish to attend at 10:45 a.m.

Progressive Christianity Foundations - Faith Journey Discussion Series
Progressive Christianity – What is your spiritual path? Sunday, March 23, 2025 – 11:45 am.

You Are Invited to **Line Dance With Amy 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!

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

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