

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, April 14, 2024

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 14, 2024

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

Sharing the Peace of Christ

PRELUDE

Christ ist Erstanden, by J.S. Bach

GATHERING PRAYER

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed.

Come let us worship the One who is and was and is to be.

Alleluia!

Let us pray.

**Oh God, you are the author of all truth,
and have called into being all that is;
may we follow in the footsteps
of those who, once in darkness,
have seen a great light.**

**Give us grace to genuinely seek
justice and truth,**

**to rise and come forth into the light of day,
standing in your presence until eternity dawns;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant
Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of
Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim



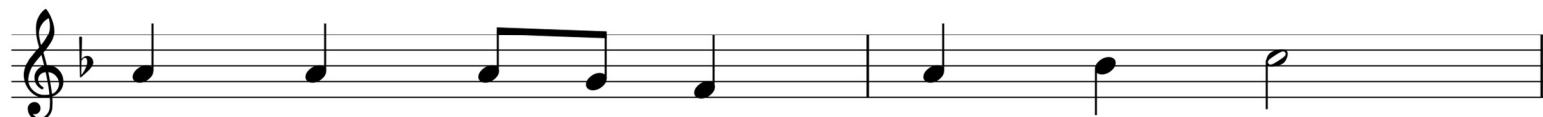
glad - ness; God has brought all Is - ra - el
splen - dor, With the roy - al feast of feasts,
por - tal, Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal



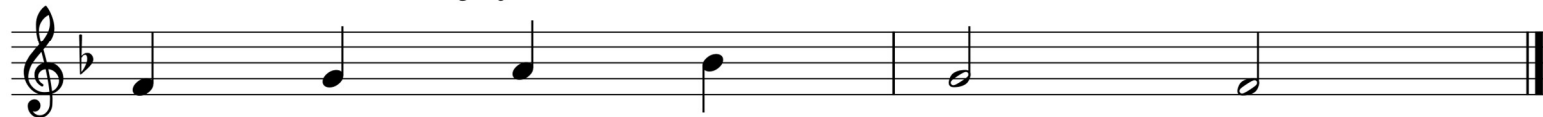
in - to joy from sad - ness; Loosed from Pha - raoh's
comes its joys to ren - der; Comes to glad Je -
hold you as a mor - tal; But to - day a -



bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
ru - sa - lem who with true af - fec - tion
mid the twelve you still stand be - stow - ing



Led them with un - moist - ened foot
Wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains
Peace and joy which ev - er - more



through the Red Sea wa - ters.
Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
pass - es hu - man know - ing.

SCRIPTURE

I John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

CHORAL ANTHEM

I Know That My Redeemer Lives, by Craig Courtney

I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.
And though my body be destroyed,
yet in my flesh shall I see God.
Alleluia, I know that my Redeemer lives.
Now we see in a glass dimly, but then, face to face;
now I know in part, but then I shall know as I am known.
Alleluia, I know that my Redeemer lives.

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MESSAGE

PRACTICING RIGHTEOUSNESS

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Be Thou 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.

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 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

Mission of the month: FCC Food Pantries

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"All His Mercies Shall Endure,"
from *Occasional Oratorio*, HWV 62, 1746
Arranged by Walter Ehret

All his mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

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DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (Creator), Son (Christ), and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, Reach - ing out with a
2. Christ is a - ble to make us one, At the ta - ble he
3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out Bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: Bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
sets the tone, Teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
world of doubt, Gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
Love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, 1929–2009

Tune: LINSTEAD, LM with refrain; Jamaican folk melody; adapt. by Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 553, by J.S. Bach

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Senior Minister
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Song Leaders
Rev. Dan Barnum-Steggerda	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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

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.

Let's Make A Mess! Painting Class will be Wednesday, April 24, 2024 – 1:00 pm This class is an Acrylic Liquid Pour Art. Please sign up for the class at the Welcome Center if you can join us. Look for a material list of items to bring to class.

Please visit our website **www.fccmuskegon.org** for the latest calendar information and options to give online.



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*