



# 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 21, 2024**

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

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**APRIL 21, 2024**

**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

*Sharing the Peace of Christ*

**PRELUDE**

*Variations I & II on AZMON, by Robert Hobby*

**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.

**O God, as the source of all creation,  
remind us again that those words in scripture  
which we read as to rule and have dominion over,  
are a description of the power we have  
to affect everything around us for better or worse.  
They are instructions, not of privilege, but of responsibility.  
You have called us to be caretakers, not destroyers,  
so give us grace to rise to that challenge,  
repent of our mistakes, and learn to do better.  
In Christ's name we pray.  
Amen.**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## OPENING HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

1. O for a tho - sand tongues to sing my  
2. My gra - cious Sav - ior and my God, as -  
3. Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that  
4. Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be

great Re-deem - er's praise, The glo - ries ev - er  
sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the  
bids our sor - rows cease Is mu - sic in the  
ev - er, ev - er given By all the saints in

ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!  
earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!  
ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd*, by Andrew Wright  
Jessica Krause and Joseph Dixon, soloists

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.*

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing, nothing I shall want.  
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.*

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.*

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## MESSAGE

INTERESTED OR COMMITTED?

\*Those who wish may stand\*

# HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## Guide My Feet

1. Guide my feet  
2. Hold my hand while I run this race,  
3. Stand by me  
4. I'm Your child

Oh, Lord,

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered lines, with the first line starting under the first measure and the second line starting under the second measure. The phrase 'Oh, Lord,' is written below the end of the second staff.

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand while I run this race,  
Stand by me  
I'm Your child

Oh, Lord,

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The lyrics continue from the previous system, with 'Guide my feet' starting under the first measure of the third staff. The phrase 'Oh, Lord,' is written below the end of the fourth staff.

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand while I run this race, For I  
Stand by me  
I'm Your child

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth staves of music. The lyrics continue, with 'Guide my feet' starting under the first measure of the fifth staff. The phrase 'For I' is written at the end of the sixth staff.

vain.  
don't want to run this race in vain, race in vain.  
vain.

Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth staves of music. The lyrics continue, with 'vain.' written above the first measure of the seventh staff. The phrase 'don't want to run this race in vain, race in vain.' is written across the seventh staff, and 'vain.' is written below the eighth staff.

## 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

*For the Beauty of the Earth, by John Rutter*

For the Beauty of the Earth, For the Beauty of the skies, For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies, over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night, Hill and vale and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light: Sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on Earth, and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild, For all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely given, Graces human and divine,  
Flow'rs of Earth and buds of heav'n, Flow'rs of Earth and buds of heav'n: Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise, This our joyful hymn (our hymn) of praise.

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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\*

### My Life Flows on in Endless Song

1 My life flows on in end-less song; a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion,  
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing!

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing - ing?

*Refrain*  
No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?

# BLESSING AND SENDING

## POSTLUDE

*Variation V on AZMON, by Robert Hobby*

## Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar  
Dr. Michael Match  
John Mattson  
The Motet Choir  
Megan Perreault  
Blake Filius

Pastor  
Music Director  
Organist  
Song Leaders  
Liturgist/Prayers of the People  
Audio and Video

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*Please join us in Fellowship Hall for a brief demonstration of Pendulum Painting honoring Earth Day by FCC's Confirmation Class students.*

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

*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.*

*Canned peaches are a favorite. This will go to Food Pantry clients. Many thanks!*

*Let's Make a Mess Painting Class will be Wednesday, April 24 at 1:00 p.m. Please sign up at the Welcome Center and pick up a material list of items to bring to class.*

*FCC Womens Single Group, May 7 1:00 pm Lunch at Early Owl Restaurant:451 W. Western Ave. (Handicap entrance in back.) There is parking on the Street or in the Lot by Arena Vandyke Convention Center. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call Judy Dewall 734-478-3716.*

*Please visit our website [www.fccmuskegon.org](http://www.fccmuskegon.org) for the latest calendar information and options to give online.*

*Members, please plan to attend a very important and short Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 28 immediately following worship service.*



## 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*