

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 27, 2025

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
An Earth Day Look Back
APRIL 27, 2025

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRST

PRELUDE

Thine is the Glory, Arr. 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

Loving God,

as we celebrate Christ's resurrection

help us to see with fresh eyes

the signs of new life all around us.

Give us grace to nurture and encourage

the tender shoots of fresh life

and new beginnings,

and wisdom to embrace every opportunity

for reconciliation and a fresh start;

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

All Creatures of Our God and King

All crea - tures of our God and King, lift
O broth - er wind, air, clouds, and rain, by
O sis - ter wat - er flow - ing clear, make
Dear moth - er earth, who day by day un -
up your voice and with us sing, O
which all crea - tures ye sus - tain, O
mu - sic for thy Lord to hear, Al - le
fold - est bless - ings on our way, Al - le -
praise ye! Al - le - lu - ia! O
praise ye! Al - le - lu - ia! Thou
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! The
broth - er sun with gold - en beam, O
ris - ing morn, in praise re - joice, ye
broth - er fire who lights the night, pro -
flowers and fruits that in thee grow, let
sis - ter moon with sil - ver gleam!
lights of ev - ening find a voice!
vid - ing warmth, en - hanc - ing sight,
them God's glo - ry al - so show!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

Psalm 139:7

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

Romans 1:20

Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse.

CHORAL ANTHEM

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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MESSAGE

DOMINION: EXPOITATION OR STEWARDSHIP?

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



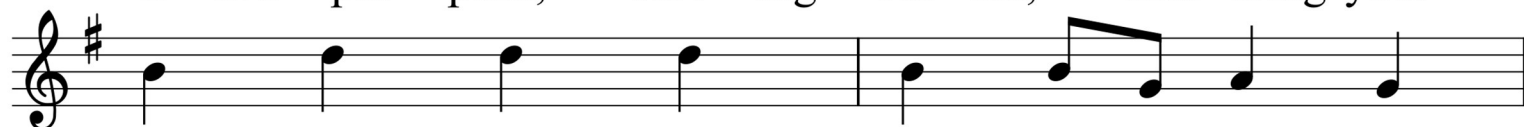
God who stretched the span - gled heav - ens
We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of
As each far hor - i - zon beck - ons,



in - fi - nite in time and place, Flung the suns in
since the chil - hood of our race; Known the ec - sta -
may it chal - lenge us a - new, Chil - dren of cre -



burn - ing ra - dian - ce through the si - lent fields of space;
sy of wing - ing through un - trav - eled realms of space;
a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.



We, your chil - dren, in your like - ness,
Probed the se - crets of the at - om,
May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise,



share in - ven - tive powers with you; Great Cre - a - tor,
yield - ing un - i - mag - ined power, Fac - ing us with
each en - deav - or, well be - gun; Great Cre - a - tor,



still cre - a - ting, show us what we yet may do.
life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

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

"The Heavens Are Telling," from *The Creation*, by Franz Haydn (1798)

The Angel Gabriel: Ashley Jankoski

The Angel Uriel: David Abdelkader

The Angel Raphael: Joseph Dixon

The heavens are telling the glory of God, The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

Angels: Today that is coming speaks it the day, The night that is gone to following night.

The heavens are telling...

Angels: In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood.

The heavens are telling...

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

For the Beauty of the Earth



For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor
For the won - der of each hour of the day and
For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter,
For the good that love in - spires, for a world where



of the skies, For the love which from our birth
of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
par - ent, child, Friends on earth, and friends a - bove,
none ex - clude, For a faith that nev - er tires,



o - ver and a - round us lies,
sun and moon and stars of light,
for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
and for ev - ery heart re - newed.



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt., Miriam Therese Winter, © 1993 Medical Mission Sisters, Tune: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds, Arr. by Robert Hobby

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 Dave and Nita Wikman in honor of their 67th Wedding Anniversary.

On **Communion** Sundays we ask that you consider donating even one canned good or non-perishable food item and place it in the bushel basket in the Narthex for our food pantry.

Join the Chamber Choir for a **60TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT "Time" at 3:00 pm, today, April 27** at FCC. Directed by James Hylan and Bradley Taylor. Accompanist – Cheryl Lohman. All are welcome, no tickets needed (a free-will offering will be accepted).

Single Women's group will meet at Olive Garden for lunch at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6th. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call Judy Dewall at 734-478-6695.

Sunday, April 27, 2025, we will explore the 7th point of Progressive Christianity, **Integrity of the Earth**. We will meet in the library following the worship service.

Member Care will no longer carry the **Upper Room** subscription, but individually, you may subscribe. Contact the office for details.

FCC Hosts **Mobile Food Pantry** each first Saturday of the month in our parking lot. Volunteers are welcome to show up at 9 a.m., May 3rd wearing comfortable shoes and outdoor clothes.

The Garden is looking for volunteers to help plant. Please join them on Saturday mornings and/or Tuesdays from 1-3. Bicycle clinic Saturday May 10, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the Garden.

Muskegon Country Cooperating Churches is offering a Peaceful Response To Violence De-escalation Skills Training from 9-3 on Saturday May 3, 2025 at Central United Methodist. Reserve your place by May 1 at 12 p.m. Registration Form is at the Welcome Center or contact MCCC: office.mccc@frontier.com or call (231) 727-6000.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters E through J please bring cookies or treats during the month of May.

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