



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

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fccmuskegon.org

REV. BRUCE MULDER + INTERIM MINISTER

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — May 3, 2026 Communion Sunday

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Aria, by Paul Manz

GATHERING PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the steadfast love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

O God, whose presence is veiled from our eyes:

Grant that when we do not recognize you,

our hearts may burn within us,

and that when feeling is lost

we may cling in faith to your Word

and the power of bread broken

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit,

one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

Those who wish may stand

1. The church 's one foun - da - tion is
2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet
3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and
4. Yet we on earth have un - ion with

Je - sus Christ our Lord; we are Christ's new cre -
one o'er all the earth, one char - ter of sal -
tu - mult of our war, we wait the con - sum -
God, the Three - in - One, and mys - tic sweet com -

a - tion, by wa - ter and the word;
va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in
One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God,

love to set us free; with pre - cious blood Christ
ho - ly food we share, to one hope we are
long - ing eyes are blessed, and the great church vic -
give us grace that we, like them, the meek and

bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
to - rious shall be the church at rest.
low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

MESSAGE

Speaking on Behalf of All of Us

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Those who wish may stand

My Jesus, I Love Thee



1 My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art mine,
2 I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed me,
3 In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,



for thee all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign;
and pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree;
I'll ev - er a - dore thee in heav - en so bright;



my gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou;
I love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy brow;
I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing crown on my brow;



if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

In My Father's House, by Philip Stopford

In my father's house are many dwellings, and if I go to prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.
Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my father's house are many dwelling places.

If there were not, would I have told you I am going to prepare a place for you?

In my father's house are many dwellings, and if I go to prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going, you know the way. Where I am going, you know the way.

For I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the father except through me.

If you know me you also know my father.

In my father's house are many dwellings, and if I go to prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

My spirit will be with you always. The Advocate, the Spirit of truth will remind you of all I have said.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled;

Do not be afraid. I have told you I will come back to you; have faith in me, have faith in me.

In my father's house are many dwellings, and if I go to prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

In my father's house.

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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

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Meaning of the Sacrament

Communion Prayer

...It is truly fitting and right...

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Ru-ler Al - migh - ty;
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo-ry be to you, O God.
Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Music © 1991 Martha McMane

...And now as Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Christ Jesus, the Way

Those who wish may stand



Christ Je - sus, the Way, be - gin - ning and end,
Christ Je - sus, the Truth, re - flect - ing God's face,
Christ Je - sus, the Life, God's hear - beat on Earth,
You call us to learn, to teach, and to pray,

you lead us to God; our joy you in - tend.
you mir - ror Com - pas - sion's heal - ing em - brace.
your love has sur - round - ed, blessed us from birth.
to make and share peace, your care to con - vey.

In faith we will fol - low the path you have shown;
May we be your Good News to neigh - bor in need,
May we give of self as you taught us to give;
May life we have shared in this meal o - ver - flow;

as Church we will jour - ney, and ne - ver a - lone.
pro - claim - ing the Gos - pel by word and by deed.
may we live more sim - ply, so oth - ers might live.
dis - ci - ples here nour - ished, now sent forth we go.

Text: Delores Duffner, OSB, b. 1939, © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., Tune: LAUDATE DOMINUM, Charles H.H. Parry, 1848-1918

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

God of Grace, by Paul Manz

Today's Service

Rev. Bruce D. Mulder

Interim Pastor

Dr. Michael Match

Music Director

John Mattson

Organist

The Motet Choir

Song Leaders

Steve Chapman

Liturgist/Prayer

Blake Filius

Audio and Video

Shirley Albers, Ann & Charlie Taylor Communion Servers

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Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names O-S are asked to donate during May. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies. Thank you!

Child Care is available on the second floor for infants & toddlers.

Women's Single Group will meet at Hobo's, Tuesday May 5 at 1:00 pm. Newcomers are welcome. Please sign up at Welcome Center or contact Judy Dewall.

Life-long Learning — Today we will decide which group initiative to undertake to help counter the local impact of Christian Nationalism. Next week (May 10) we will not meet. On May 17 we will select a more relaxed format for continuing our topical discussions over the summer. (First up is to continue with "If the Church Were Christian.") These two strands — active community involvement, and discussions of spiritual topics — will then continue in parallel, but their meeting schedules will not compete. If you would like more detailed information but you think you're not on the Life-long Learning mailing list, message Steve Chapman at 931-239-3017.

In honor of Mother's Day and Music Appreciation - All "Youngsters" and "Oldsters" are welcome to enjoy a reading (15 - 20 minutes) of a favorite book by a guest reader in the Parlor after the coffee hour next Sunday. Enjoy your coffee and cake while you admire the table settings.

An announcement will be given to let you know when to gather in the Parlor:

It will be music to your ears!

We invite you to join us Wednesday mornings for outside and inside projects around the church. We meet from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. followed with coffee and donuts.

Reminder Paint Class is Wednesday, May 20 at 1 pm in the Art Room (downstairs). Everyone is welcome. No painting experience needed. No brushes needed.

Sign up at the Welcome Center and grab a Material List for items you will need to bring.

Eurythmy Classes are Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30. Wear loose fitting clothes. \$10 per class.

We meet in the lower level Activities Room.

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings from 9-10 AM in Fellowship Hall for a Zumba Class emphasizing the 3's (Cardio, conditioning and choreography. \$3 per class)

There is also a Cardio- Drumming exercise class on Thursday mornings from 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join either sitting or standing. \$3 per class.

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*