

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

231-726-3254

fccmuskegon.org

REV. BRUCE MULDER + INTERIM MINISTER

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — MAY 17, 2026

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Toccata in F Major, by Dietrich Buxtehude

GATHERING PRAYER

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

And also with you.

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray:

O living Lord,

on the first Easter Day

you stood in the midst of your disciples

as the conqueror of Sin and Death

and spoke to them your peace.

Come to us, we pray, in your risen power.

And make us glad with your presence,

and so, breathe your Holy Spirit into our hearts

that we may be strong to serve you

and spread abroad your good news,

for the glory of your great name.

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The hymn concludes with a double bar line.

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.

Text: Attrib to John of Damascus, Transl by John Mason Neale, 1872, alt, Tune: ST. KEVIN, Arthur Sullivan, 1872

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God. But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. Sing to God; sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the Lord—be exultant before him. Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land. O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy. Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel and whose power is in the skies. Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

Acts 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

MESSAGE

Get on with it!

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit

Those who wish may stand



Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, with all your
In vain we tune our for - mal songs, in vain we
Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, with all your

quick - ening powers; Kin - dle a flame of sa - cred
strive to rise; Ho - san - nas lan - guish on our
quick - ening powers; Come, shed on us the Sav - ior's

love in these cold hearts of ours.
tongues, and our de - vo - tion dies.
love, that it may kin - dle ours.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707, alt., Tune: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1866

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 INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Aria in F Major, by G.F. Handel

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.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Those who wish may stand

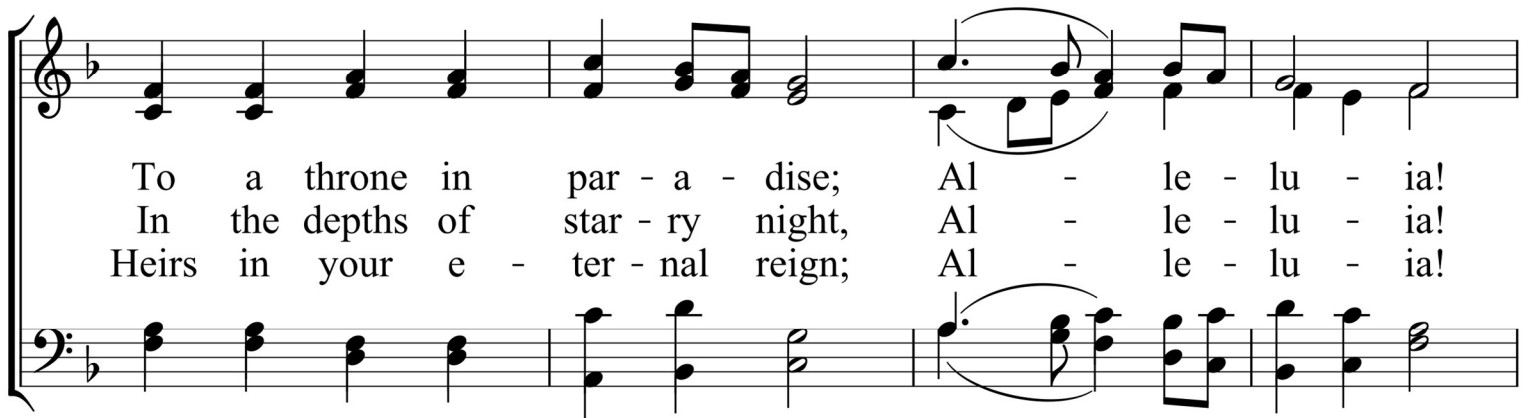
CLOSING HYMN

Come Holy Spirit

Those who wish may stand



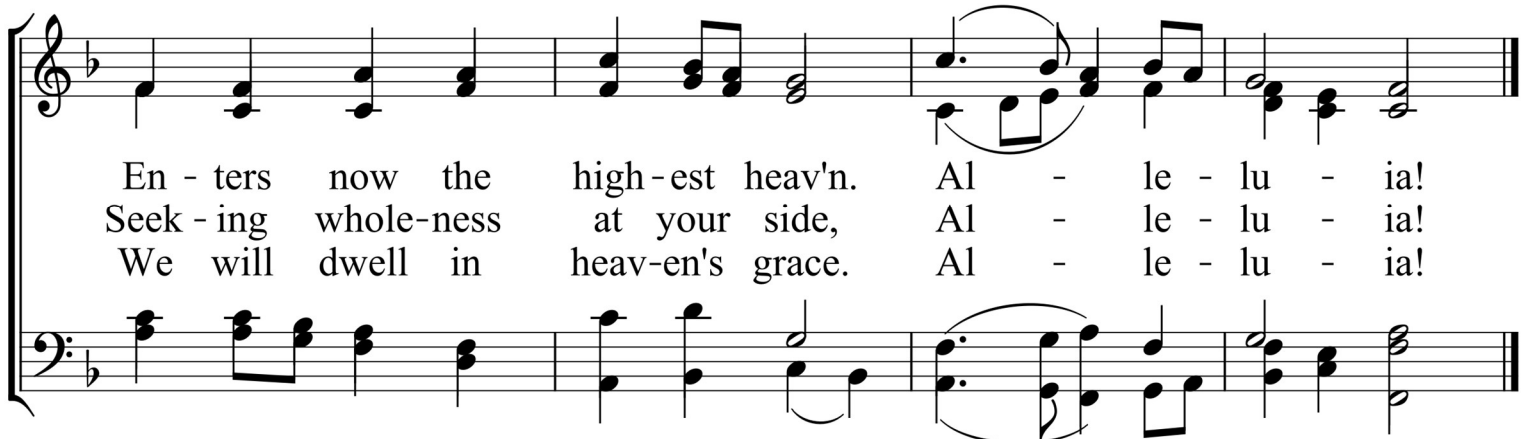
Hail the day that sees Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now, though part - ed from our sight, Al - le - lu - ia!
There we will with you re - main, Al - le - lu - ia!



To a throne in par - a - dise; Al - le - lu - ia!
In the depths of star - ry night, Al - le - lu - ia!
Heirs in your e - ter - nal reign; Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners giv'n, Al - le - lu - ia!
May our souls with you a - rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
In the pres - ence of your face, Al - le - lu - ia!



En - ters now the high - est heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Seek - ing whole - ness at your side, Al - le - lu - ia!
We will dwell in heav - en's grace. Al - le - lu - ia!

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

"Prelude," from *Te Deum*, by Marc Antoine Charpentier

Today's Service

Rev. Bruce D. Mulder
Dr. Michael Match
John Mattson
Rev. Brewster Willcox
Phil Konczyk

Interim Pastor
Music Director/Cantor
Organist
Liturgist/Prayer
Audio and Video

All music reprinted by permission under ONELICENSE #A-727828

Those whose last names begin with the letters O through S please bring cookies or treats during the month of May. Please label ingredients as we have many with allergies.

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

Life Long Learning meeting WILL NOT BE HELD THIS MORNING. Join us May 24 as we discuss the book "If The Church Were Christian."

Eurythmy Classes are back! Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 We meet in the Activity Room in lower level. Wear loose fitting clothes. \$10 per class.

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings from 9-10 AM in the 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.

Women's Single Group will meet at Lefty and Romo's in N. Muskegon on Tuesday, June 2 at 1 pm. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call Judy D.

Mission and Services gives a huge thank you to the wonderful faithful few volunteers for picking up, sorting and shelving the 150-30 lb. tubs from the Postal Service Food Drive.

Join us from 9:00 – 10:30 AM for a nutritious, free, hot meal in Fellowship Hall. The Saturday Breakfast will be held Saturday, May 30, 2026. Please contact Donna Lachniet (DGL2846@aol.com) to volunteer. Cowboy will hold a Chapel Service following the breakfast for all who are interested.

Our Saturday Breakfast Garden is in full swing. Please consider volunteering for one or many Tuesday's and/or Saturday's this spring and summer. Bring your whole family! Pick up a detailed list at the Welcome Center. Garden hours: Tuesdays 1-3 & Saturdays 10 to noon.

GSA continues to meet through the summer- Mondays at 7 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."