



# 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, May 22, 2022**

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

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

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**May 22, 2022**

*Together we covenant with God,  
understood in the life and teachings of Jesus:  
To walk in God's ways, known or to be made known to us;  
To commit ourselves to the Christian way as we understand it;  
To affirm our participation in the Church which is the body of Christ; and  
To serve the world God Loves.*

**ACOLYTES**

**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**PRELUDE**

*Prayer of the Children, by Kurt Bestor*

**GATHERING PRAYER**

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you  
such good things as surpass our understanding:  
Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we might  
love you in all things and above all things, and in so doing  
attain your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## \*OPENING HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *For the Healing of the Nations*

For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with  
All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing  
earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,  
of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of  
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon  
love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.

Text: Fred Kaan, © 1968 by Hope Publishing Co. Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, c. 1680

## CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

### SONG OF RESPONSE *Spirit of the Living God*

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;  
Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Text: Daniel Iverson, 1926. Tune IVERSON, Daniel Iverson, © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music

## **SCRIPTURE**

Acts 16:9-15

**D**uring the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Be the Light*, by Lea Morris

(inspired by Amanda Gorman's poem, *The Hill We Climb*)

## **MESSAGE**

LET GOD GRANT US GRACE AND BLESS US

\*Those who wish may stand\*

**\*HYMN**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

**Shall We Gather At The River**

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have  
2 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den  
3 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will

trod, with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing  
down; grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro -  
cease; soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the

*Refrain*  
by the throne of God? Yes, we'll gath - er at the  
vide a robe and crown. mel - o - dy of peace.

riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*...ending with*

**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**

### **\*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\*

### *Take My Life, God, Let It Be*

Take my Life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed  
Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse  
Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing  
faith - ful - ly. Take my mo - ments and my days,  
of your love. Take my in - tel - lect and use  
ov - er - flow. Take me now, and help me be  
let them flow in cease - less praise.  
all its pow - ers as you choose.  
part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Text: Francis Havergal. 1874. alt: Tune: VIENNA. Justin Knecht. 1797

## BLESSING AND SENDING

### POSTLUDE

*Happy Together*, by The Turtles

# Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Pastor
Dr. Michael Match	Organist
Ashley Klaassen	Cantor
"Just Us"	Guest Vocal Ensemble
Kate Bullion	Acolyte
Jack Crampton	Acolyte
Jane Clingman-Scott	Liturgist /Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

**Sanctuary flowers** are sponsored by *Connie Cottrell* in memory of *Bob Cottrell*.

**Blessings** to *Kate Bullion* on your Confirmation. *Kate* is the daughter of *Dr. Bruce* and *Dr. Michelle Bullion*, and the sister of *Mara Bullion*.

**Special thanks** to the members of the a cappella ensemble, "Just Us" for sharing your time and talents this morning!

*Cathy Forrest, Karen Frederiksen, Eileen Grostic, Elisabeth Major, Sue McIntire, Barb Pitcher, Bev Schroeder, Cindy Van Ittersum, Suzi Velarde*

**Thank you** to our youth group and volunteers for doing special projects in and around the church Saturday.

Please feel free to take this worship aid home or place in the recycle container in the Narthex, thank you!

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## First Congregational Church, UCC 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*