

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

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fccmuskegon.org

REV. BRUCE MULDER + INTERIM MINISTER

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — July 5, 2026 Communion Sunday

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

From *The Virginia Harmony, 1831*: HARMONY GROVE
Arr. by Charles Callahan

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:

**Blessed be our God at all times,
now and always and forever and ever.**

Glory to you, our God! Glory to you!

Holy Spirit, Lord and Comforter,

**Spirit of truth everywhere present, filling all that exists,
treasury of good gifts and source of life, come and dwell in us;
cleanse us from all sin and in your love**

bring us to salvation:

**God, holy God, strong and holy;
God, holy and immortal; have pity on us.**

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

God of the Ages

1 God of the a - ges, whose al - might - y
2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
3 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry
past; in ev - ery land by thee our lot is
way; lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing

band of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the
cast; be thou our Rul - er, Guard - ian, Guide, and
day; fill all our lives with love and grace di -

skies, our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
Stay, thy word our law, thy path our cho - sen way.
vine, and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

Words: Daniel C. Roberts, 1841–1907, alt.
Music: George William Warren, 1828–1902

10.10.10.10.
NATIONAL HYMN

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:16-19; 25-30

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will¹ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

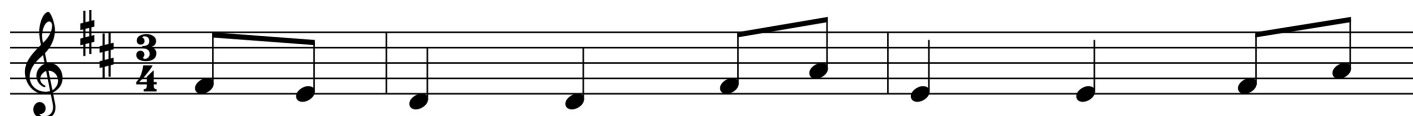
What'd You Expect?

Those who wish may stand

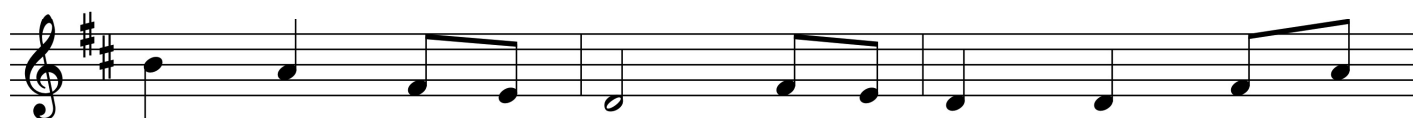
HYMN OF REFLECTION

As We Gather at Your Table

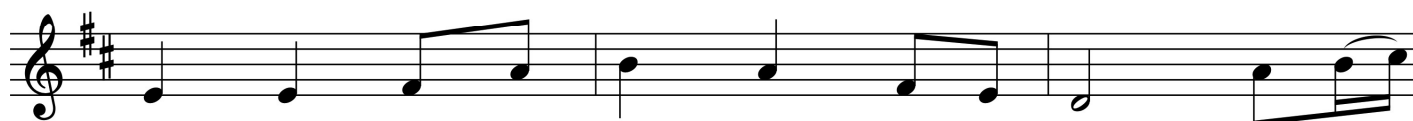
Those who wish may stand



1. As we gath - er at your Ta - ble, As we
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness In the
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon Oth - er



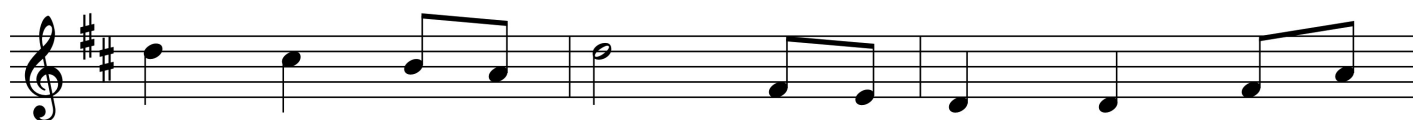
lis - ten to your word, Help us know, O God, your
sac - ra - ment of life; Send us forth to love and
guests to share that feast Where tri - um - phant Love will



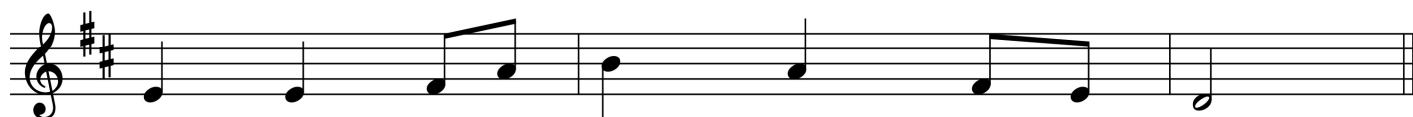
pres - ence; Let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish
serve you, Bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us,
wel - come Those who had been last and least. There no



us with sa - cred sto - ry Till we
Christ, your great com - pas - sion To for -
more will en - vy blind us Nor will



claim it as our own; Teach us through this ho - ly
give as you for - gave; May we still be - hold your
pride our peace de - stroy, As we join with saints and



ban - quet How to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
im - age In the world you died to save.
an - gels To re - peat the sound - ing joy.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

From *The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844:*

BEACH SPRING

DETROIT

Arr. by Charles Callahan

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father (*Creator*), Son (*Christ*), and Holy Ghost.

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

**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

Those who wish may stand

This Is My Song



This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,
My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun-light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine;



This is my home, the coun-try where my heart is;
But oth-er lands have sun-light, too, and clo-ver,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.



But o - ther hearts in oth - er lands are beat-ing
O hear my song, O God of all the na-tions,



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

Text: Lloyd Stone, © 1934 The Lorenz Corp., Tune: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, © Breitkopf and Härtel, Wiesbaden

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

From *The Southern Harmony, 1835*: RESTORATION and JEFFERSON

Arr. by Charles Callahan

Today's Service

Rev. Bruce D. Mulder
Dr. Michael Match
Ashley Jankoski
Megan Perreault
Blake Filius

Interim Pastor
Music Director
Cantor
Liturgist/Prayer
Audio and Video

Communion Servers:

Megan Perreault, Shirley Albers, Susan Mixer

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Aside of our closing hymn (chosen for themes of citizenship & peace) all this morning's hymns and instrumental selections are uniquely and authentically AMERICAN tunes, featured today to celebrate our country's 250th Birthday.

Flowers are sponsored by Tom Linacre in memory of his father Tom Linacre, Sr.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names A-C are asked to donate during the Sundays in July. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies. Thank you!

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

Life-long Learning will meet Sunday July 12.

Please 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.

Come to our **Meet and Greet for Rev. Becky Emerson** at the Rummery's on Saturday, July 11 from 2-4 PM. Address is 1405 Moulton Ave., N. Muskegon. Lemonade, iced tea and a few light appetizers. (Across from the High School tennis courts.) If it is a nice day swimming is allowed.

Rev. Becky will preach on July 12. Paper ballots will be handed out at the worship service.

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings from 9-10 AM in Fellowship Hall for a Class emphasizing the 3 c'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.

Congregational Life is sponsoring a Clipper's Baseball Game! Wednesday, July 15 at 6:30 PM. Marsh Field (corner of Peck and Laketon). Tickets are available. Please sign up at the Welcome Center and prepay for your ticket(s). Cost \$10 each. Details are at the Welcome Center.

The Saturday Breakfast Garden invites you to help out Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at Tools are provided. Bring the family! We are across the street from the church. Saturday, July 11 is our next bike clinic at the garden - 10 AM to noon.

Wild West Adventure Vacation Bible School will be July 20-24. Please help us spread the word! This is open to preschool - middle school. 6:30-8:30 PM here at FCC.

Our Saturday Breakfast will be held Saturday, July 25. This is a free buffet meal for all from 9-10:30 a.m. and is open to the community.

Please note that staff will never send an email for a request for money. Please beware of scams.

A reminder that the church offices will be closed Monday, July 6 in observance of Independence Day.

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