

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

231-726-3254

fccmuskegon.org

REV. DR. BECKY EMERSON + SENIOR MINISTER

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2026

Communion Sunday

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on *Ach Gott und Herr*, by J.G. Walther

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:

**Today, we are blessed and privileged to gather here,
to see friends and families, old and a few new faces.**

**We enter this sacred space,
with an awareness that so many others are gathering too!
We are part of the wider family and community of God.**

**Oh God, you have carried us through this week,
and we bring our offering of worship in response.**

May the songs and music uplift our hearts.

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Jesus Shall Reign

The musical score is written for four-part harmony (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 3/2 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, key signatures, time signatures, and various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) with stems and beams. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made,
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue
4 Let all the peo - ple rise and bring

does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
and end - less prais - es crown his head;
dwell on his love with sweet - est song,
their spe - cial hon - ors to our King;

his king - dom spread from shore to shore,
his name like sweet per - fume shall rise
and in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim
an - gels de - scend with songs a - gain

till moons shall wax and wane no more.
with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
and earth re - peat the loud A - men.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 139:15-18; Psalm 8:1-9

Psalm 139: 15-18

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed
substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and
infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of
your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and
honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Spirituality, our common connection.

HYMN OF REFLECTION

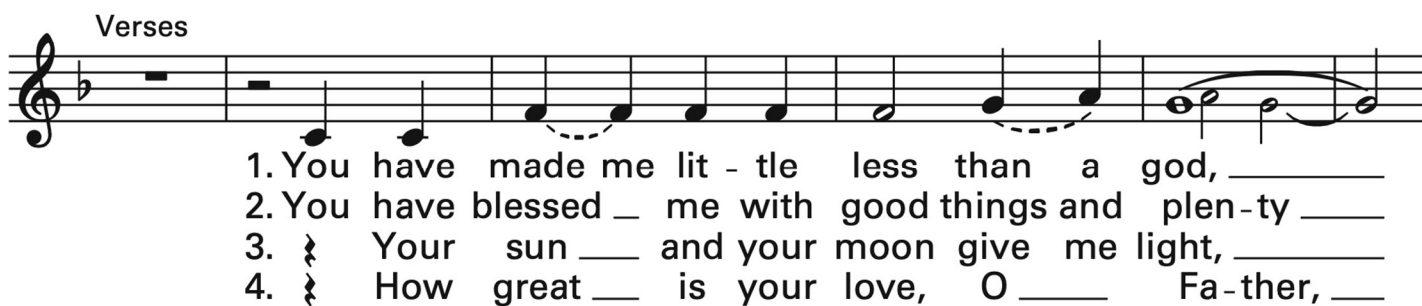
All My Days

Refrain

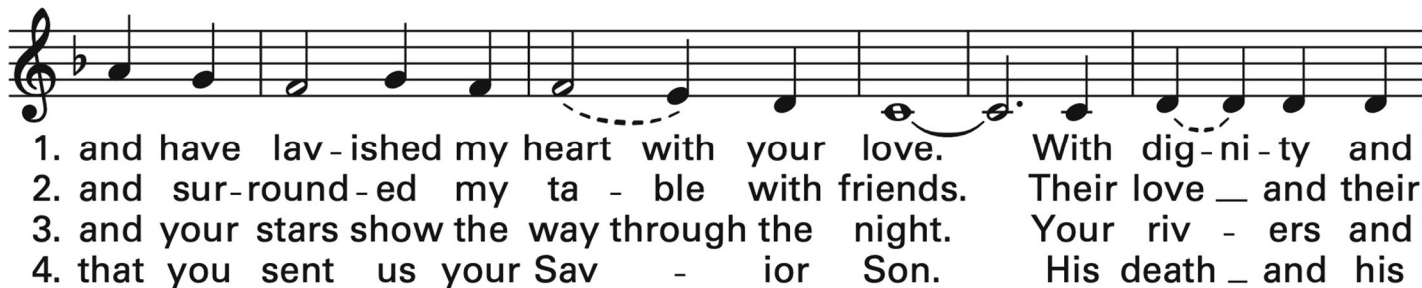


Till the end of my days, O Lord, I will bless your name,
sing your praise, give you thanks, all my days.

Verses



1. You have made me lit - tle less than a god, _____
2. You have blessed _ me with good things and plen - ty ____
3. } Your sun ____ and your moon give me light, _____
4. } How great ____ is your love, O ____ Fa - ther, ____



1. and have lav - ished my heart with your love. With dig - ni - ty and
2. and sur - round - ed my ta - ble with friends. Their love _ and their
3. and your stars show the way through the night. Your riv - ers and
4. that you sent us your Sav - ior Son. His death _ and his



1. hon - or you've clothed me, giv - en me rule o - ver all.
2. laugh - ter en - rich me; to - geth - er we sing your _ praise.
3. streams have re - freshed me. I ____ will sing your _ praise.
4. ris - ing will heal us, and draw us ____ all un - to you.

Text: Based on Psalm 8; J-Glenn Murray, SJ. Text and music © 1971, Daniel L. Schutte and J-Glenn Murray, SJ.
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Chorale Prelude on *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr*, by J.G. Walther

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

...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

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

Chorale Prelude on *Lobe den Herren*, by J.G. Walther

Today's Service

Rev. Becky Emerson

Senior Minister

Dr. Michael Match

Music Director/Cantor

John Mattson

Organist

Joe Singerling

Liturgist/Prayer

Blake Filius

Audio and Video

Communion Servers:

Shirley Albers, Sue Mixer, Joe Singerling

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Red roses are sponsored by Cindy Maguire in memory of her husband Mike.

A white carnation is in memory of FCC member Karen Chadwick who passed away August 26, 2026. Our sympathy and prayers are with her husband Tom and family.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names beginning with K-N are asked to donate during the Sundays in September. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies such as dairy, nut or gluten. Home made goodies are always welcome. Thank you!

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

FCC Mobile Food Pantry will be on Saturday, September 12 at 10 AM.

Meijer in North Muskegon and Harvey Street will TRIPLE your donation, directly benefitting FCC's own Food Pantry and Saturday Breakfast. For example, your \$10 will become \$30!

Join us at the Saturday Breakfast Garden every Saturday – weather permitting from 10:00 AM till noon and/ or Tuesdays from 1-3 PM.

A bike clinic will be held on September 12 from 9 AM-noon at the Saturday Garden.

September Mission of the Month: CROP Walk (the walk will take place Sunday, October 4.)

Congregational Life is sponsoring Potluck on Sept. 13 with Trivia following. Please sign up at Welcome Center. We are also having a new and clean used coat drive. Please leave clean and in good condition or new adult and children coats in the basket at the Welcome Center.

Trunk or Treat returns. Congregational Life will be collecting donations of candy and may be left at the Welcome Center.

Year 5 of "Let's Make a Mess" acrylic pour paint class will be scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th at 1 PM in FCC's decor room. There is no charge for the class and everyone is welcome. Each participant will be asked to bring in their own materials. Please sign up and get your Material Lists at the Welcome Center. Contact Nancy Doctor or Barb Kartes for details.

Picture Directory is ready for members and long time attendees. A donation of \$10 is recommended if you can, to help cover the cost. They will be at the Welcome Center.

Office will be closed and staff will be off for Labor Day, September 7. Have a safe holiday.

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*