

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

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fccmuskegon.org

REV. DR. BECKY EMERSON + SENIOR MINISTER

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 18, 2026

**WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS
SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

PRELUDE

"Allemande" & "Allegro" from *Sonata in E minor*, by John-Baptiste Loeillet
Dan Giacobassi, Flutist

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.

Let us pray:

Our God, this morning we hear your call to gather.

We have entered this sanctuary and embrace your peace and presence. We bring our worship, adoration, and the things that weigh on us. Oh God, our help in ages past, our help in years to come! Your throne is a throne of mercy, of grace, and we approach with confidence. Lord, we pray for a peaceful midterm. May you breathe upon us, watch over families who are hurting, where sorrow seeks to overtake and where hopelessness lingers. Lord, remember them, uplift them, and encourage them. Those living in fear and oppression, remember them. Our God, watch over our country, may your mighty right hand keep us.

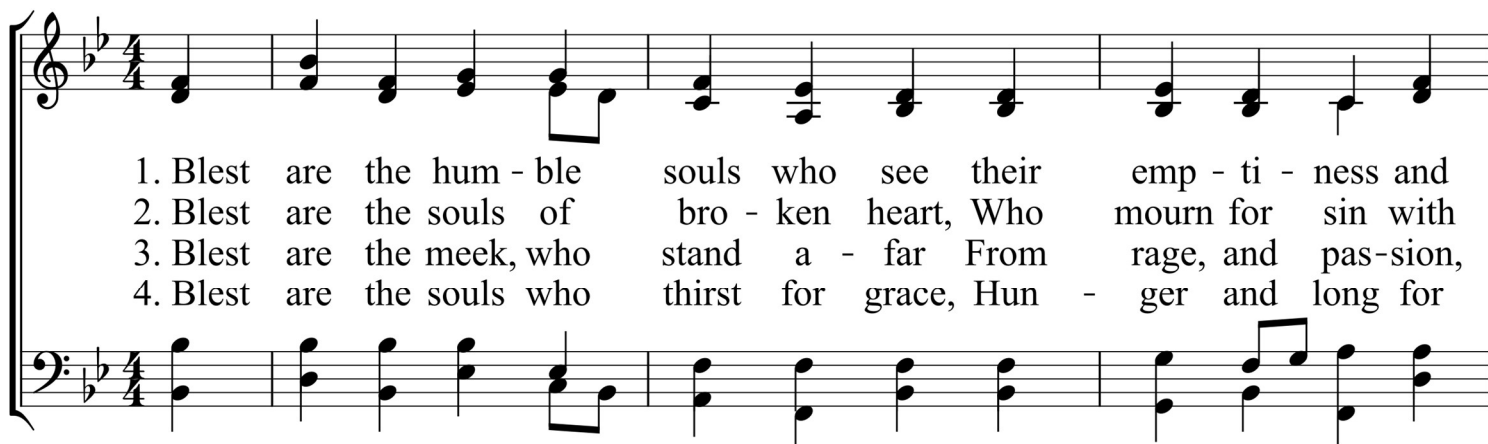
Amen.

Those who wish may stand

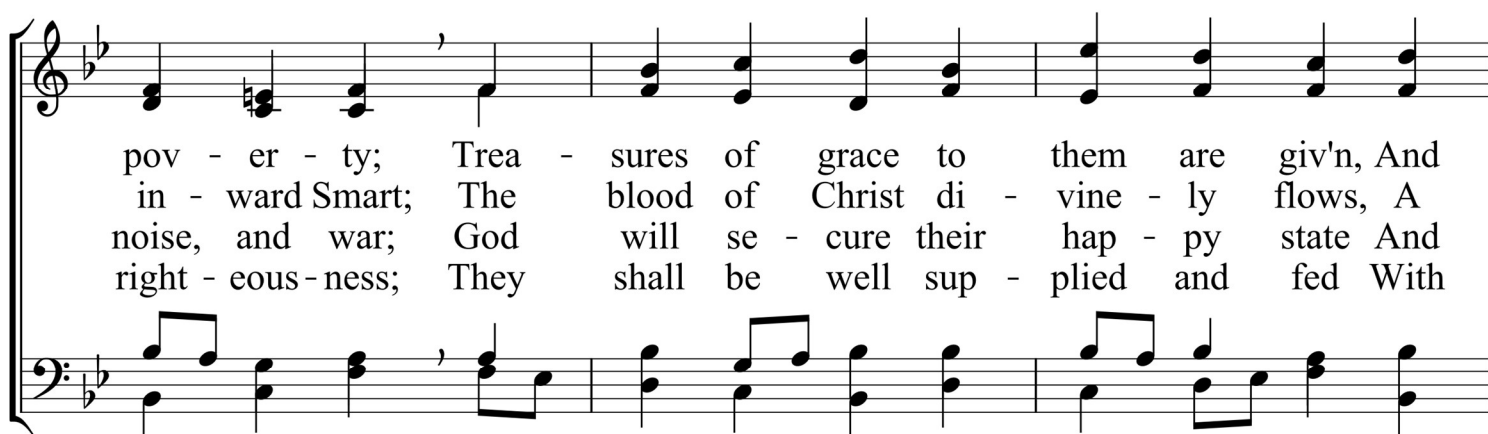
OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Blest Are the Humble Souls Who See



1. Blest are the hum - ble souls who see their emp - ti - ness and
2. Blest are the souls of bro - ken heart, Who mourn for sin with
3. Blest are the meek, who stand a - far From rage, and pas - sion,
4. Blest are the souls who thirst for grace, Hun - ger and long for



pov - er - ty; Trea - sures of grace to them are giv'n, And
in - ward Smart; The blood of Christ di - vine - ly flows, A
noise, and war; God will se - cure their hap - py state And
right - eous - ness; They shall be well sup - plied and fed With



crowns of joy laid up in heav'n.
heal - ing balm for all their woes.
plead their cause a - gainst the great.
liv - ing streams and liv - ing bread.

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), Tune: WINCHESTER NEW, *Musikalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Let us pray: **May the love of God, the grace of Jesus, and the communion of the Spirit attend to our new members and the FCC community. Our God, we thank you for our new members, for FCC, for our history, and a culture that is rich in giving and hospitality. On this foundation, may we continue to be established. We ask for continued wisdom on how to be a beacon to our community and to all generations. Amen!**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 5:5

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Genesis 13:5-10

Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, and the land could not support both of them living together because their possessions were so great that they could not live together. Thus strife arose between the herders of Abram's livestock and the herders of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites lived in the land. Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me and between your herders and my herders, for we are kindred. Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." Lot looked about him and saw that the plain of the Jordan was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar; this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL ANTHEM

What Does the Lord Require of You, by Robert Hobby

What does the Lord require of you?
Bind up the broken-hearted, offering God's peace.
Strengthen the weak, offering God's hope.
Seek and find, find the face of Christ in each of God's children.
What does the Lord require of you?
Nurture the young and tend the old, offering God's love.
Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, offering God's compassion.
Share the good news in the name of Christ.
Share the good news: with God there is welcome for all!
What does the Lord require of you?
To do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.
What does the Lord require of you?

MESSAGE

The Meek

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Those who wish may stand

O For A Heart to Praise My God

1. O for a heart to praise my God, a
2. A heart re - signed, sub - miss - ive, meek, my
3. A hum - ble, low - ly, con - trite heart, be -
4. A heart in ev - ery thought re - newed and

heart from sin set free, a heart that al - ways
great Re - deem - er's throne, where on - ly Christ is
liev - ing, true, and clean, which neith - er life nor
full of love di - vine, per - fect and right and

feels thy blood so free - ly shed for me.
heard to speak, where Je - sus reigns a - lone.
death can part from Christ who dwells with - in.
pure and good, a cop - y Lord, of thine.

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

"All His Mercies Shall Endure," from *Occasional Oratorio*
HWV 62 (1746) by G.F. Handel, Arr. by Walter Ehret

All his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

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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

Those who wish may stand

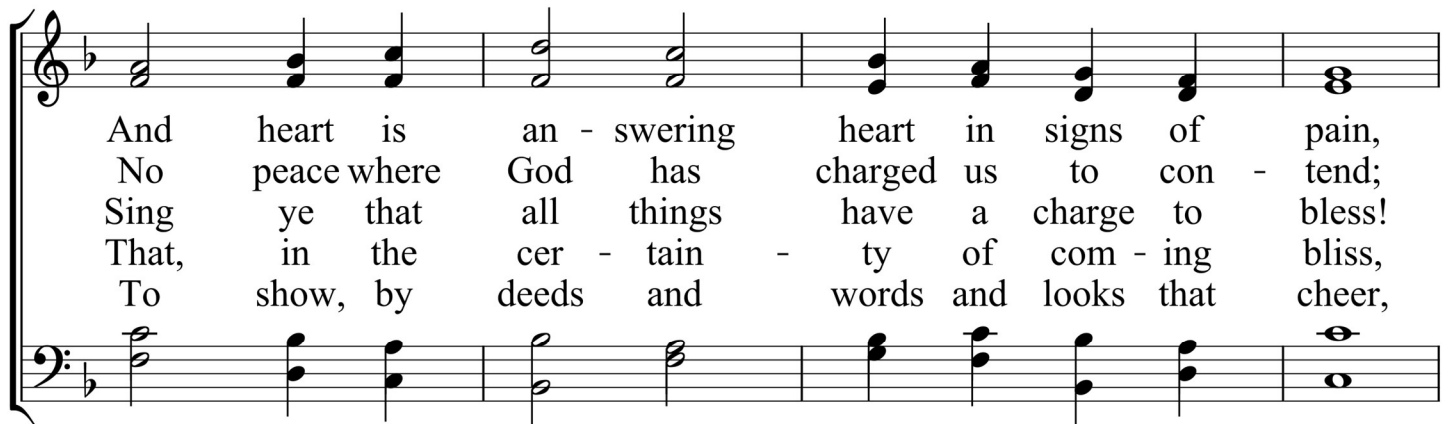
CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

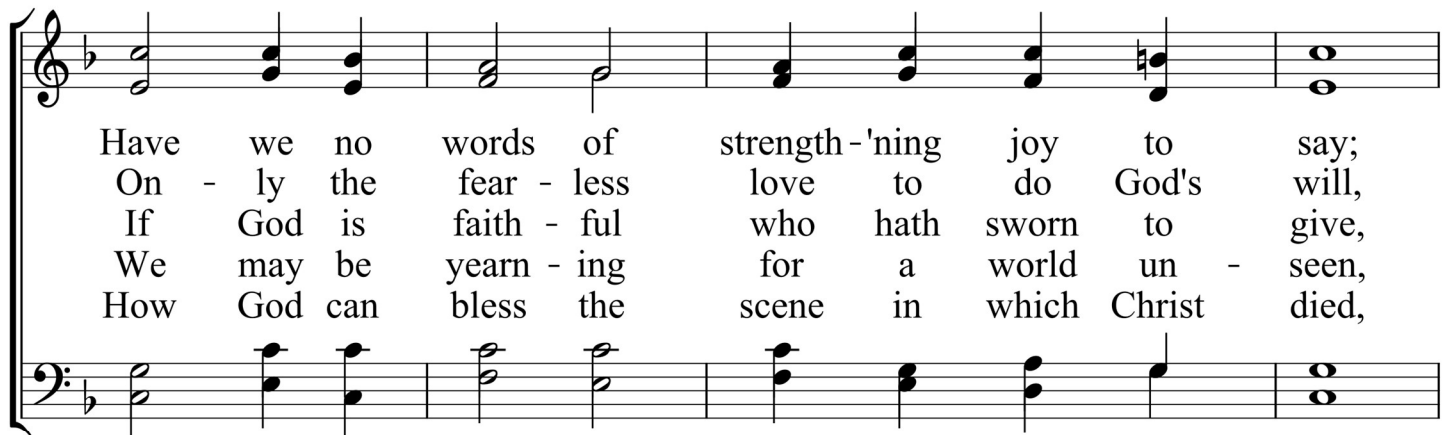
While Toil and Warfare Urge Us on Our Way



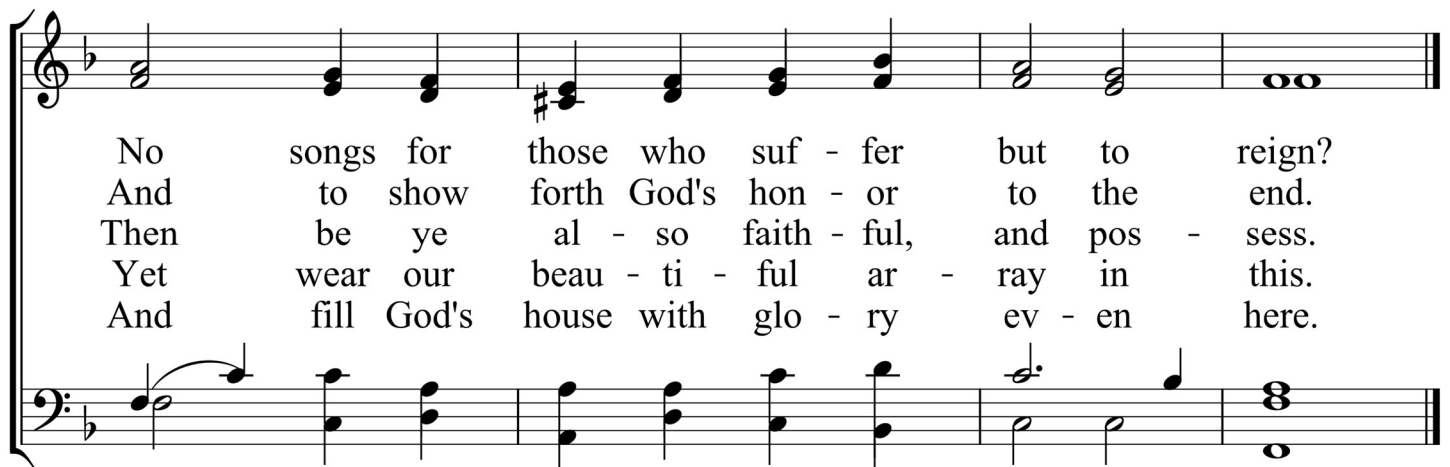
While toil and war - fare urge us on our way,
We need no haste where God has said, "Be still"
O ye that faint and die, a - rise and live!
And love shall teach us while on God we lean,
Ours be a loy - al love for ser - vice tried,



And heart is an - swering heart in signs of pain,
No peace where God has charged us to con - tend;
Sing ye that all things have a charge to bless!
That, in the cer - tain - ty of com - ing bliss,
To show, by deeds and words and looks that cheer,



Have we no words of strength - 'ning joy to say;
On - ly the fear - less love to do God's will,
If God is faith - ful who hath sworn to give,
We may be yearn - ing for a world un - seen,
How God can bless the scene in which Christ died,



No songs for those who suf - fer but to reign?
And to show forth God's hon - or to the end.
Then be ye al - so faith - ful, and pos - sess.
Yet wear our beau - ti - ful ar - ray in this.
And fill God's house with glo - ry ev - en here.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

"Sarabande" & "Giga" from *Sonata in E minor*, by John-Baptiste Loeillet
Dan Giacobassi, Flutist

Today's Service

Rev. Dr. Becky Emerson	Senior Minister
Dr. Michael Match	Director of Music
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Leaders of Song
Dan Giacobassi	Flutist
Steve Chapman	Liturgist/Prayer
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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Flowers are sponsored by Jerry and Barb Lahnala in celebration of their 68th wedding anniversary, Oct. 10.

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

Welcome back Dan Giacobassi. Thank you for sharing your time and music with us.

We welcome our new members to our church family this morning: Lucy Lower, Roger Wenk and Rod Puseman.

Lucy comes to us from Battle Creek, where she taught school music, piano lessons, and directed church music for over 30 years. She has two grown children and five siblings. In her retirement, she enjoys puzzles, biking, traveling, boating with Captain Roger, and cheering on her MSU Spartans!

Roger has three adult children. He is looking forward to retirement in March after 30 years as a food scientist in Research and Development at the Kellogg Company in Battle Creek. With his partner, Lucy Lower – he is looking forward to sailing, catching big fish on Lake Michigan, biking and traveling to places near and far. He is a proud Muskegon Big Red and graduated from Ferris State University and Michigan State University.

Rod is retired from the U.S. Navy as an Aviation Electronics Technician. He currently serves as a Service Officer with the American Legion and VFW. He was trained as a social worker for the LCMS Church at Concordia University in Seward, NE.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names beginning with O-S are asked to donate during the Sundays in October. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies. Thank you!

Life-long Learning will meet downstairs after the service to transform our Christian Nationalism discussions into a specific action plan.

Saturday Breakfast, October 31 from 9-10:30 AM Volunteers are encouraged to help.
Tom "Cowboy" Hardy offers a Chapel Service following the breakfast. All are welcome.

The Saturday Breakfast Garden invites you to help out Saturdays from 10 AM to noon; and Tuesdays 1-3 PM through the end of October.

New or gently used coats children-adult sizes are being collected Oct. and Nov.

FCC's 3rd Annual Heartfelt Hand Made Craft Fair will be held Saturday, October 24 from 10 AM – 3 PM. Chicken BBQ sandwich lunch is available.

Womens Single Group Luncheon will be Tues. Nov. 3 at Pints & Quarts 950 W. Norton at 1 PM.

Still time to sign up for decorating your vehicle for Trunk or Treat on October 27th/ or donate candy to this event.

Thanksgiving Feast will be Nov. 22. \$28 per person or \$55 for a family of 3 or more. Catered by Dave's Kountry Kitchen. Details at the Welcome Center for signing up and paying. Roy & Britta Portenga will provide entertainment.

Directories are still available to members and long time attendees. Suggested donation \$10 to help cover expenses.

Genders And Sexualities Alliance (GSA) meet Mondays at 7 PM here.

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