



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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REV. DR. BECKY EMERSON + SENIOR MINISTER

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 25, 2026

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

PRELUDE

From *Reformation Suite*, by Gerhard Krapf:

II. "Wir glauben all an einen Gott"

GATHERING PRAYER

(Based on Psalm 146)

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:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live,

I will sing praises to my God while I live.

Do not put your trust in rulers, in mortals,

In whom there is no salvation.

O LORD, You set the prisoners free.

You open the eyes of the blind.

You raise up those who are bowed down.

You love those who do justice.

You watch over the strangers.

You uphold the orphan and the widow,

You reign forever! Praise the LORD!

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Lo, he comes with clouds descend - ing,
Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed,
Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,
once for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in so - lemn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;
thou - sand, thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
all the saints this world re - ject - ed
Sav - ior, take the power and glo - ry;
join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
claim the king - dom as thine own.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
Come, Lord Je - sus; come, Lord Je - sus;
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
Al - le - lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
come Lord Je - sus. Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: St. 1 & 3 Charles Wesley, 1758, alt; St. 2 John Cennick, 1752, alt. Tune: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1763

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL ANTHEM

Blessed Are You, by Craig Courtney

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
Blessed are the makers of peace: for they shall be called the children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile and persecute you,
and speak evil against you, for my sake.
Rejoice, be glad: for great is your reward in heaven:
for so they persecuted the prophets which were before you. Blessed are you.

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MESSAGE

Those who hunger and thirst

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Those who wish may stand

God of Day and God of Darkness

God of day and God of dark - ness, Now we
Still the na - tions curse the dark - ness, Still the
Show us Christ in one an - oth - er, Make us
You shall be the path that guides us, You the

stand be - fore the night; As the shad - ows stretch and
rich op - press the poor; Still the earth is bruised and
ser - vants strong and true; Give us all your love of
light that in us burns, Shin - ing deep with - in all

deep - en, Come and make our dark - ness bright.
bro - ken By the ones who still want more.
jus - tice So we do what you would do.
peo - ple, Yours the love that we must learn,

All cre - a - tion still is groan - ing For the
Come and wake us from our sleep - ing, So our
Let us call all peo - ple ho - ly, Let us
For our hearts shall wan - der rest - less 'Till they

dawn - ing of your might, When the Sun of peace and
hearts can - not ig - nore All your peo - ple lost and
pledge our lives a - new, Make us one with all the
safe to you re - turn; Find - ing you in one an -

jus - tice Fills the earth with ra - diant light.
bro - ken, All your child - ren at our door.
low - ly, Let us all be one in you.
oth - er, We shall all your face dis - cern.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(After each petition:) LEADER: Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

(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.**

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Let Love Be Genuine, by Alfred Fedak

Let love be genuine. Hate what it evil; hold fast to what is good.

Let love be genuine; love one another as Christ has loved us.

Outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal; be aglow with the Spirit.

Serve the Lord. Be joyful in hope. Be patient in affliction and constant in prayer.

Give to the needs of all the saints. Practice hospitality; Show hospitality to all.

Let love be genuine; let love be genuine.

Hate what is evil and hold fast to what is good.

Let love be genuine; let love be genuine.

Love one another as Christ has loved us.

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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

The Church of Christ in Every Age

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live un - til they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

MUSIC: William Knapp (1698-1768)

WAREHAM

L.M.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress, by Wilbur Held

Today's Service

Rev. Dr. Becky Emerson	Senior Minister
Dr. Michael Match	Director of Music
John Mattson	Organist
Motet Choir	Leaders of Song
David Wikman	Liturgist/Prayer
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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Flowers are sponsored by Tom Linacre in memory of his mother Betty Linacre.

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

We invite you to stay for a **coffee and fellowship** in the Lobby.

Women's Single Group will meet for lunch at 1 PM on Tuesday, November 3 at Pints and Quarts in Norton Shores Park Row Mall. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Thanksgiving Feast will be on Sunday, November 22, following worship service. and will be catered. Suggested donation is \$28 per person/\$55 per family of 3+. We are also asking for dessert donations. Please sign up at the Welcome Center for both. **Reservations are needed by Sunday, November 8th.**

Communion Sundays we ask that you consider bringing in even one **canned good** or non-perishable food item and place in the bushel basket in the Narthex. This will go to our Food Pantry clients. Many thanks!

Are you on our **Thursday email list**? This is a way to keep up to date with FCC events and information as well as a direct link to our on-line worship service. Just email michaelm@fccmuskegon.org and ask to be put on our Thursday email.

Saturday, Nov. 7, FCC hosts a **Mobile Food Pantry** in the parking lot. Volunteers are always needed to help unload the Feeding America Truck & dispense the food. Please show up by 9 AM wearing comfortable shoes and outdoor clothes.

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. This is our final week to harvest and winterize.

Still time to sign up for **Trunk or Treat** to decorate your car and help pass out candy on Tuesday, Oct. 27 Setup begins at 4PM.

Winter coats new or gently worn and cleaned will be collected through the month.

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