



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, October 31, 2021

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation-Reconciliation Day
October 31, 2021

By calling ourselves progressive Christians we mean that we are Christians who believe that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey.
Second Point from "The Eight Points of Progressive Christianity"

ACOLYTES

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

Aria, by Michael Burkhardt

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.

Spirit of Grace, we pray that the unity of Christ's church may be revealed through our faith in your love and through the calling we have received to share it.

Grant us integrity in our life and witness, in our relationships with others, and in our readiness to draw from the best of other traditions while hanging on to the good in our own. As the refrain from a song many of us know says, shepherd us, O God, beyond our wants, beyond our fears, from death into life.

This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 12:1-8

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

CHORAL ANTHEM

Offertory, by John Ness Beck

With what shall I come before the Lord,
And bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
With ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my first-born for my transgressions,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O man,
He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice and to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?

© 1987 Beckenhorst Press, Inc

MESSAGE

The Challenge of Non-Hypocrisy

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of five staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note D5, and finally a whole note E5. The second staff begins with a whole note F4, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, and B4, then a half note C5, and finally a whole note D5. The third staff begins with a whole note E5, followed by quarter notes D5, C5, and B4, then a half note A4, and finally a whole note G4. The fourth staff begins with a whole note F4, followed by quarter notes E4, D4, and C4, then a half note B3, and finally a whole note A3. The fifth staff begins with a whole note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4, then a half note D4, and finally a whole note E4. The lyrics are: I greet thee, who my sure Re-deem-er art, Thou art the life, by which a-lone we live; My on-ly Trust and Sav-ior of my heart, And all our sub-stance and our strength re-ceive; Who pain didst un-der-go for my poor sake; Sus-tain us by our faith and by thy power. I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take. And give us strength in ev-ery try-ing hour.

I greet thee, who my sure Re-deem-er art,
Thou art the life, by which a-lone we live;
My on-ly Trust and Sav-ior of my heart,
And all our sub-stance and our strength re-ceive;
Who pain didst un-der-go for my poor sake;
Sus-tain us by our faith and by thy power.
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
And give us strength in ev-ery try-ing hour.

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.**

(Many Congregationalists in the early days felt that using the Lord's Prayer as a fixed part of worship was far too "liturgical." The traditional form in this Congregation uses "debts" and "debtors," but you are free to join in with whatever version you know.)

OFFERTORY THOUGHTS

Please place offerings in the stationary plates located in the Narthex as you leave today, thank you!

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

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Toccatà in D Minor, by J.S. Bach

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Pastor
Dr. Michael Match	Choir Director
John Mattson	Organist
Motet Choir	Song Leaders
Kate Bullion	Acolyte
Mara Bullion	Acolyte
Carol Thompson, PhD	Reader/Prayers of the People
Steve Kartes	Audio
Blake Filius	Video

Sanctuary Flowers

*Today's flowers are sponsored by Rev. Tim and Sue Vander Haar
in honor of Tim's birthday (Nov. 1).*

Help Needed!

*Please consider helping us beautify our sanctuary by sponsoring altar flowers.
The cost is \$35. Please contact the church office to schedule. Many thanks.*

*Worship participants are needed to read the scripture and do our prayers of the people.
Please contact the church office to schedule.*

*Sign up sheets are at the Welcome Center for our Thanksgiving Feast
and also to be a part of Member Development Committee.*

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

All music reprinted by permission under ONELICENSE #A-727828

Please visit our website www.fccmuskegon.org for the latest calendar information and options to give online.

Today's service is being live-streamed to our YouTube and Facebook pages and will be available to view again any time after the conclusion of the service.



Scan this code for
Text to Give!

The **Open and Affirming** Covenant Process

***This was adopted by the congregation
on Sunday, October 17, 2021
at our Congregational meeting.***

Muskegon FCC ONA Covenant

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.