

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

231-726-3254

fccmuskegon.org

REV. DR. BECKY EMERSON + SENIOR MINISTER

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Killer Joe, by Benny Golson
Jazz Ensemble

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:

**Our God, we are thankful for the opportunity
to gather in your name!**

You are our Creator and the Spirit that gives life.

**As we have come into this sanctuary,
we have come into Your sacred space.**

**In Your presence there is comfort,
in your presence there is encouragement and hope!
We have come from different experiences this week,
from challenges and from rejoicing.**

You weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice!

**You are our Anchor in times of trouble,
here in our nation and in our world.**

Today as World Communion Sunday, we join our hearts with your body here in Muskegon, in our country, and in our global family. May our hymns express our adoration and our worship to You. May our music rise like a beautiful aroma of our thanksgiving. Oh God our help in ages past, our help in years to come! We bless you. Amen!

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN *Arise, Your Light is Come!*

Those who wish may stand

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (1947-)
 MUSIC: William H. Walter (1825-1893)

FESTAL SONG
 S.M.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Summertime, by George Gershwin
Jazz Ensemble

MESSAGE

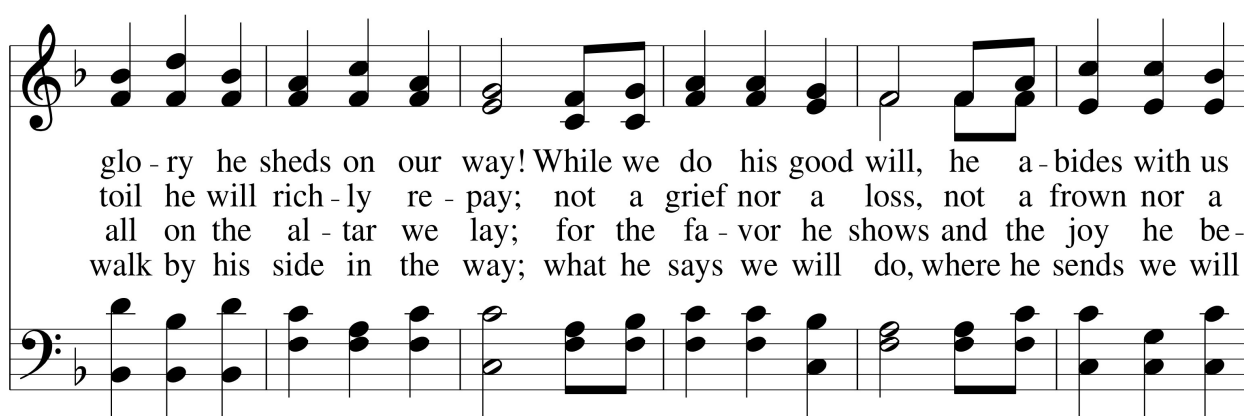
Poor in Spirit

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Trust and Obey

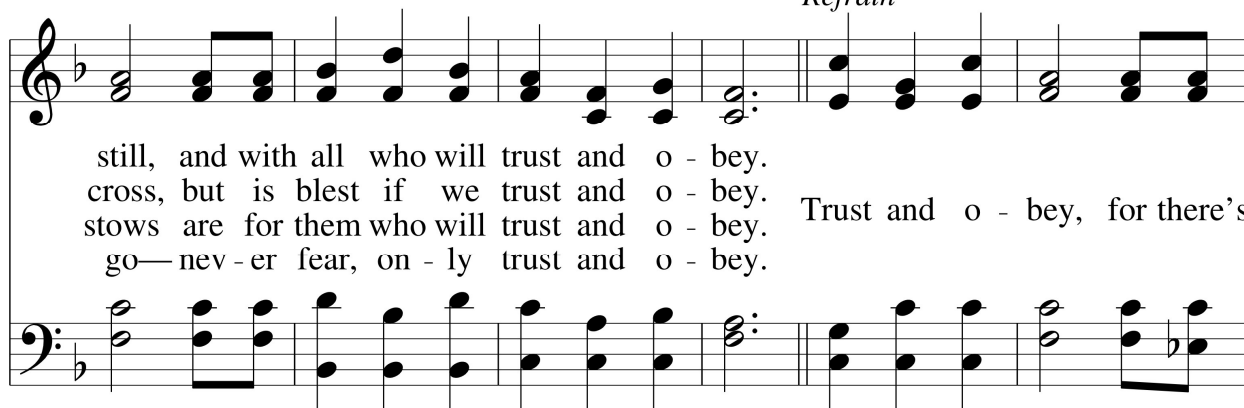


1 When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a
 2 Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, but our
 3 But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love un - til
 4 Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll

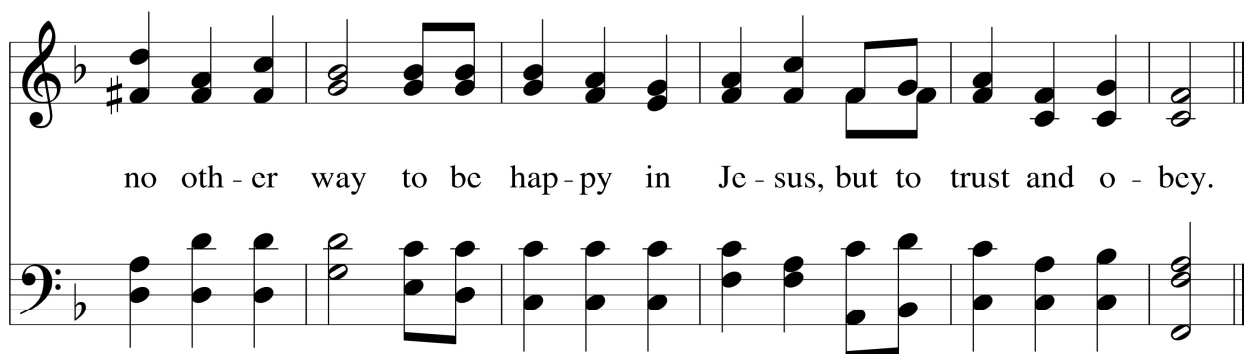


glo - ry he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he a - bides with us
 toil he will rich - ly re - pay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a
 all on the al - tar we lay; for the fa - vor he shows and the joy he be -
 walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will

Refrain



still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.
 cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
 stows are for them who will trust and o - bey.
 go—nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



no oth - er way to be hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Peace, by Horace Silver
Jazz Ensemble

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

Family Born of Font and Spirit

Delores Dufner, OSB

CWM RHONDDA
John Hughes, 1873–1932



1. Fam - 'ly born of font and Spir - it,
2. Friends here pledged to gos - pel jus - tice,
3. Saints be - side and saints be - yond us,



called from dark - ness in - to light,
walk with Christ com - pas - sion's way;
spread good seed from what has been.



for the works of mer - cy mis - sioned
share your faith, your hope of glo - ry,
Trust - ing in our God for har - vest,



at this ta - ble of de - light:
all you have and are to - day. With a bless - ing
let the fu - ture here be - gin!



Je - sus sends us bear - ing bread of love to



give, bread that all the world might live.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Work Song, by Nat Adderly

Jazz Ensemble

Today's Service

Rev. Becky Emerson

Senior Minister

John Mattson

Organist

Tom Hardy

Liturgist/Prayer

Jazz Ensemble:

Dan Giacobassi, flute and saxophones; Steve Harris, drums; Dave Collee, bass, trombone; Greg Miller, guitar

Communion Servers:

Tom Hardy, Dan Barnum-Steggerda, Ron McDermed

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Flowers are sponsored by Michelle Kemp in memory of Ethan Kemp.

We welcome our jazz ensemble and thank them for their time and talents.

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

Life-long Learning will meet downstairs after church today to consider Rev. Becky's proposed "affinity groups" model.

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 such as dairy, nut or gluten. Home made goodies are always welcome. Thank you!

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

We are harvesting and preparing for winter.

Crop Walk will take place today. Many thanks to our walkers and sponsors.

Congregational Life is sponsoring. 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. We are looking for people who like to have a fun time and would decorate their trunk for children Trunk or Treating, on Tuesday, October 27.

Please be in our main parking lot by 4:30. Last year we had 400 children.

Sign up sheet is at the Welcome Center.

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*