

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, November 12, 2023

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

<p>TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOVEMBER 12, 2023</p>

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

O Jesus, I Have Promised, Arr. by David Cherwien

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.

**God of power and love,
protect us from threats without and fears within.**

**Make us strong in body, mind and spirit
to do your work on earth.**

**Keep us moving toward the truth and beauty
of your realm; we ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Those who wish may stand

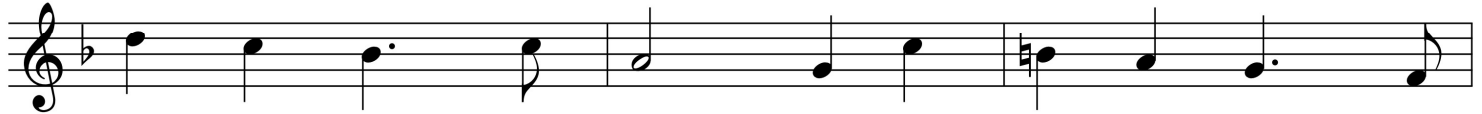
OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

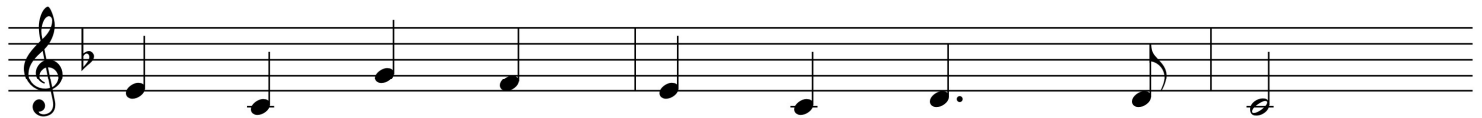
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



1. God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, From your
2. Skills and time are ours for press - ing Toward the
3. Treas - ure, too, you have en - trust - ed, Gain through



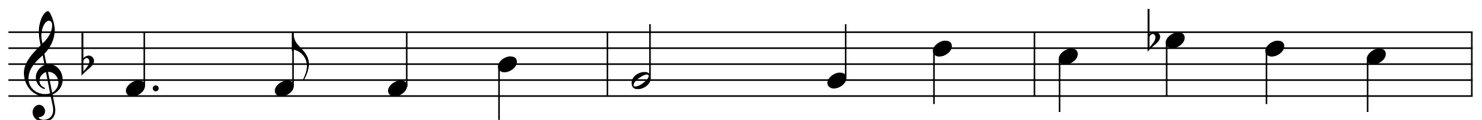
rich and end - less store: Na - ture's won - der, Je - sus'
goals of Christ, your Son: All at peace in health and
pow'rs your grace con - ferred; Ours to use for home and



wis - dom, Cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
free - dom, Rac - es joined, the Church made one.
kin - dred, And to spread the gos - pel word.



Gift - ed by you, we turn to you, Of - f'ring
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, Lest we
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, As we



up our - selves in praise; Thank - ful song shall rise for -
strive for self a - lone; Born with tal - ents, make us
heed Christ's age - less call, Heal - ing, teach - ing, and re -



ev - er, Gra - cious do - nor of our days.
ser - vants Fit to an - swer at your throne.
claim - ing, Serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Sing Unto the Lord, by Charles Yannerella

MESSAGE

A JUST RULE

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

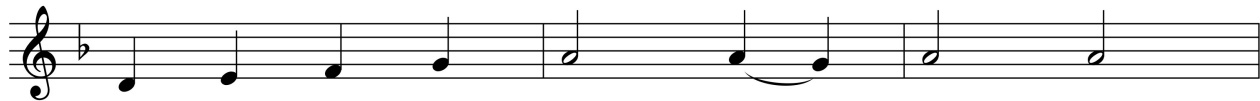
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence,
2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y,
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en
4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph;



And with fear and trem - bling stand;
As of old on earth he stood,
Spreads its van - guard on the way;
Cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye



Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
Veil their fac - es to the Pres - ence,



For with bless - ing in his hand
In the Bod - y and the Blood
From the realms of end - less day,
As with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God, to earth de - scend -
He will give to all the faith -
Comes, the pow'rs of hell to van -
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - "



ing, Comes, our hom - age to de - mand.
ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
quish, As the dark - ness clears a - way.
ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

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.**

HONORING OUR VETERANS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

This is the Day the Lord Has Made, by G.F. Handel

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

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, Reach - ing out with a
2. Christ is a - ble to make us one, At the ta - ble he
3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out Bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: Bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
sets the tone, Teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
world of doubt, Gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
Love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, 1929–2009

Tune: LINSTeAD, LM with refrain; Jamaican folk melody; adapt. by Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune, by Fred Swann

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar
Dr. Michael Match
John Mattson
The Motet Choir
Jane Clingman-Scott
Blake Filius

Senior Minister
Music Director
Organist
Leaders of Song
Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Audio and Video

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Altar Flowers are sponsored by Tim and Sue Vander Haar in memory of Trudy Vander Haar on what would have been her 99th birthday.

Coffee and Fellowship will be in the church lobby following worship service this morning.

Today is the deadline to sign up for the November 19 Thanksgiving Feast, catered by Dave's Kountry Katering. Suggested donation is \$22.

Sign up sheets are at the Welcome Center.

On Monday, November 13 at 7pm come and hang out with the Westshore GSA Youth Group. All 6th through 12th grade youth are welcome. Come join us!

Let's Make A Mess acrylic painting class, Wednesday, November 29 at 1:00 p.m. We will be painting a holiday tree picture. Please sign up at the Welcome Center and pick up a material's list of items to bring with you.

FCC Food Pantry - Love INC gives thousands of dollars worth of groceries to our FCC community pantry each year. A \$20 "Simply Give" purchase creates a \$40 total that is promoted October thru December at the North Muskegon Meijer. On one day, December 16th, North Muskegon Meijer triples the "Simply Give" donations. \$20 becomes a \$60 value. Tell the cashier when you check out that you want to Simply Give an amount of \$10, \$20, \$50, or \$100. This offer is only at the North Muskegon Meijer.

Please join us for our Candlelight Concert on Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 pm. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season.

Looking to help defer costs of the concert? We are offering multiple levels of sponsorship. All donors or those In Memory will be listed in our concert program. Also, score donations will be labeled and archived in our Music Library with the family name of your choosing. Please direct any questions to Michael Match at the church office or michaelm@fccmuskegon.org Many thanks. The Candlelight Sponsor Forms are at the Welcome Center, on our website, and in the Pilgrim Post. Many thanks.

First Congregational Church, UCC 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