

# 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 26, 2023**

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

[www.fccmuskegon.org](http://www.fccmuskegon.org)

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| <p><b>CELEBRATING THE REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY</b><br/><b>NOVEMBER 26, 2023</b></p> |
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**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**PRELUDE**

*Come, Ye Thankful People Come*, Arr. by Joel Raney

**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.

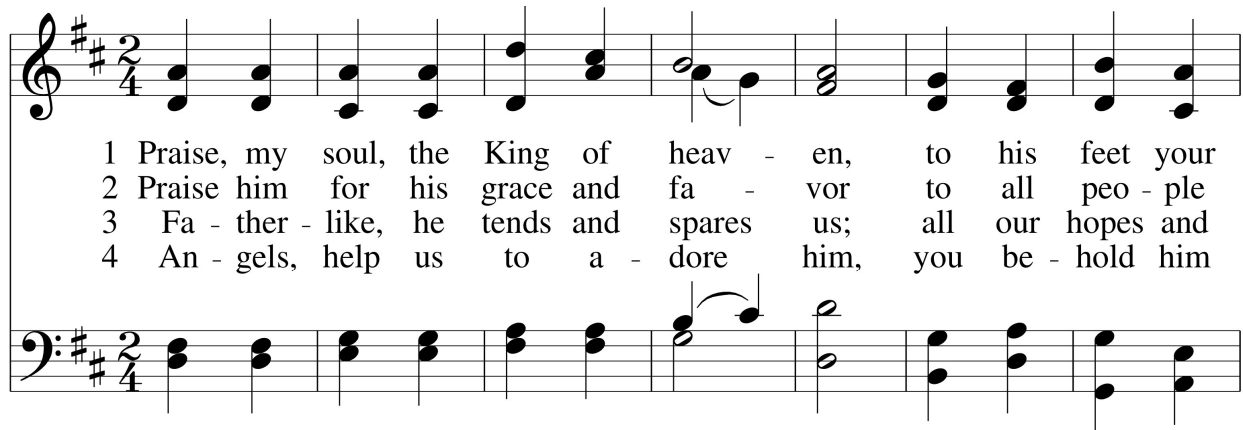
**Almighty and merciful God,  
you break the power of evil  
and make all things new  
in your Son Jesus Christ, Ruler of the universe.  
May everything in heaven and on earth  
acclaim your glory and never cease to give you praise.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

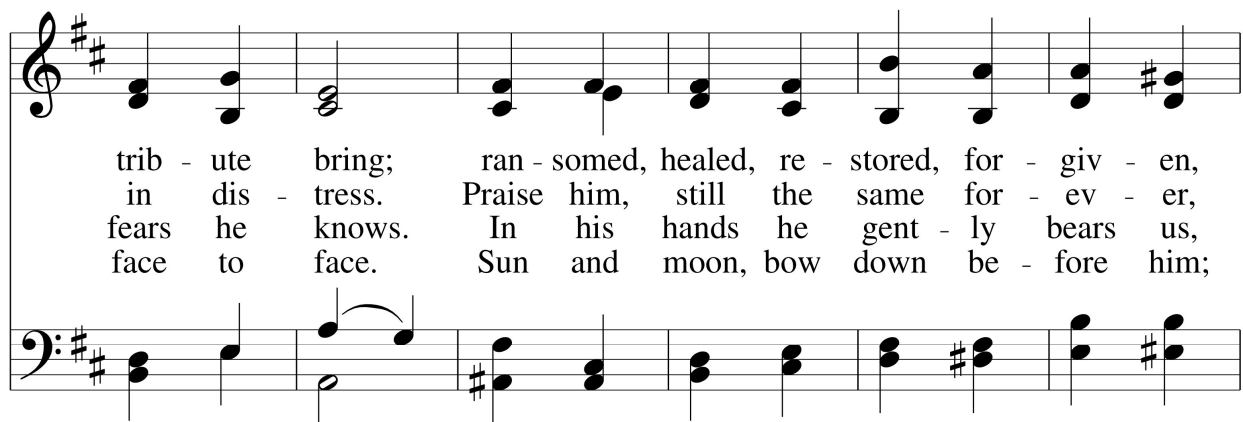
## OPENING HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

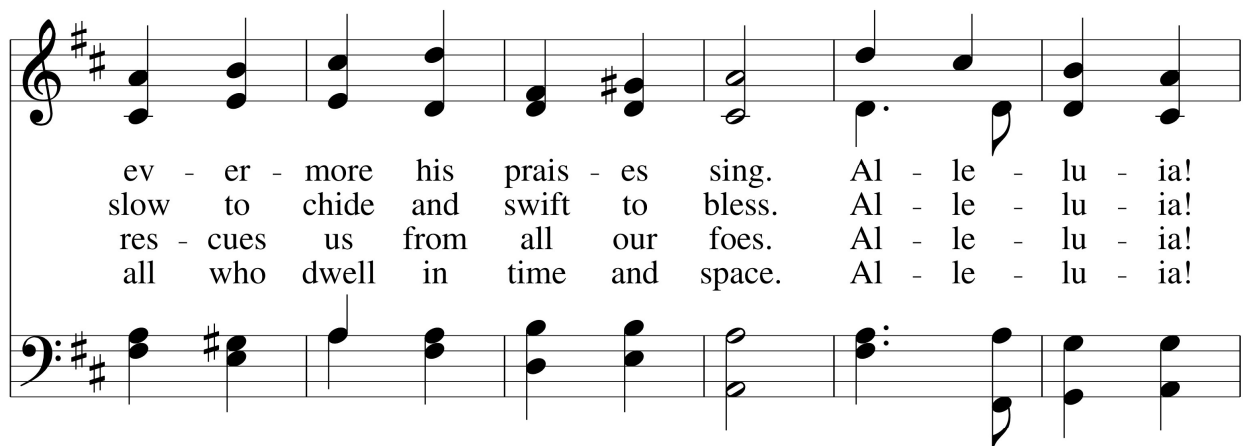
### *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your  
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to all peo - ple  
3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; all our hopes and  
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, you be - hold him



trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,  
fears he knows. In his hands he gent - ly bears us,  
face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;



ev - er - more his prais - es sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
slow to chide and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!  
res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!  
all who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*The Baptism of Aria Grace Mazzulli*

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 23:31-46

**T**hus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your ancestors. You snakes, you brood of vipers! How can you escape being sentenced to hell? Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

### **MESSAGE**

PUTTING THE EMPHASIS ON DOING

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *O for a World*

O for a world where ev - ery - one re -  
O for a world where goods are shared and  
O for a world pre - par - ing for God's

spect's each oth - er's ways, Where love is lived and  
mis - er - y re - lieved, Where truth is spo - ken,  
glo - rious reign of peace, Where time and tears will

all is done with jus - tice and with praise  
chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
be no more, and all but love will cease.

Text: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987 © The Medical Mission Sisters, Tune: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1828

## 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

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*  
The New Century Hymnal, #351

## 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\**

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

1 Sav - ior, like a Shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten - der care;  
2 We are thine, do thou be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
3 Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us do thy will;

in thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre-pare:  
 keep thy flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray:  
 thou hast mer-cy to re-lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:  
 bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav-ior, with thy love our bos-oms fill:

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear, O hear us when we pray;  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear-ly let us turn to thee;  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast loved us, love us still;

bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
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WORDS: Attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847); *Hymns for the Young*, 1836  
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

BRADBURY  
 8.7.8.7.D.

## BLESSING AND SENDING

### POSTLUDE

*O Worship the King*, Arr. by Joel Raney

# Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar  
Dr. Michael Match  
John Mattson  
Donna Hood  
Motet Choir  
Tom Linacre  
Blake Filius

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

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*We celebrate the baptism of Aria Grace Mazzulli, daughter of Joseph and Jennifer Mazzulli, granddaughter of Ozzie and Sandy Osborne and Robert and Phyllis Mazzulli.*

*Altar Flowers are sponsored by Jeff Leder in memory of his mother Joan Leder.*

*The White Carnation is in memory of longtime FCC member Tom Johnson.  
Tom passed away November 7, 2023. His service will be at FCC Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Our sympathy and prayers are with Pat Johnson and family.*

*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.*

*Please consider helping the Tuesday Food Pantry by bringing canned or boxed foods next Communion Sunday morning and place them in the basket in the narthex.*

*FCC Single Women Christmas Potluck will be Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 1:00 pm. at Judy Dewall's home – 3970 Fleetwood Lane, Muskegon, 49442. Please bring a \$10-15 White Elephant or gift for exchange. Sign up at the Welcome Center for food assignments or call Judy Dewall at 734-478-3716.*

*Mobile Food Pantry will be Saturday, December 2, 2023 at FCC parking lot at 10 a.m.*

*Candlelight Concert, Sunday, December 10 at FCC at 7 pm.  
Program sponsorships are again available to help support this 80 plus tradition.  
Forms are available at the Welcome Center.*

*Westshore GSA Youth Group meeting will be Monday from 7-8 pm.*

## **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*