



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, February 18, 2024

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

Sharing the Peace of Christ

PRELUDE

Adagio, BWV 564, by J.S. Bach

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.

**O God, you formed us from the dust of the earth,
and breathed into us the breath of life.**

**In our stubbornness we so often turn away,
but in the face of Christ
may we be reminded
of your persistence in loving us
and turn again toward you.**

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days



The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for
As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and
And through these days of pen - i - tence, and
A - bide with us, till when this life of
us did fast and pray, Teach us with you to
did the vic - tory win, O give us strength to
through this Pas - sion - tide, Yes, ev - er - more, in
suf - fering shall be past, An Eas - ter of un -
mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.
life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.
end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

Text: Claudia Hernaman, 1873: alt, Tune: ST. FLAVIAN, Day's *The Whole Booke of Psalms*, 1562

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

CHORAL ANTHEM

My Son, the Beloved, by David Blackwell

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
And as he came out of the water, he saw the heavens,
the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending
like a dove on him.
And a voice came from heaven,
"You are my Son, you are my Son, you are my Son,
my Son the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased."
"My Son, the Beloved."

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MESSAGE

THIS IS GOOD NEWS?

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Those who wish may stand

O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free

O Love, how vast, how flow - ing free, O
Not as an an - gel vis - it - ing, nor
For us bap - tized, and fast - ing long, for
Then for God's bound - less love sing praise through

Love how filled with ec - sta - sy,
form ce - les - tial or - bit - ing,
us was tempt - ed by the wrong,
end - less a - ges, count - less days;

That God a hu - man form should take, and
But born in flesh God chose to be, robed
For us the pangs of hun - ger knew; for
By Love we have been rec - on - ciled: sal -

mor - tal be for mor - tals' sake.
in our own hu - man - i - ty.
us the Tempt - er o - ver - threw.
va - tion gained through God's own Child.

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.**

(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 please feel free to join in with whatever version you know.)

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

We Adore you, O Christ, by Steven Van Wye

Choir first, then ALL



We a - dore you, O Christ, and we bless you.



You have re - deemed the world!

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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

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

1 O Love that will not let me go,
2 O Light that fol - lowest all my way,
3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain,
4 O Cross that lift - est up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in thee;
I yield my flick - ering torch to thee;
I can - not close my heart to thee;
I dare not ask to fly from thee;

I give thee back the life I owe, that
my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Wer nur den lieben Gott, by J.S. Bach

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Pastor
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Song Leaders
David Wikman	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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Westshore GSA Youth Group will be meeting on Monday, from 7 to 8 pm.

Prayer in the Spirit of Taize: Please join us Thursday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary for a half hour of prayerful contemplation and inspiring music in a peaceful atmosphere.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters O through S please bring cookies or treats during the month of February. Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated as are homemade cookies or bars.

Singles Womens Group will meet on Tue. March 5 at 1:00 pm at Egg Roll House. Call Judy Dewall 734-478-3716 for reservations or sign up at the Welcome Center.

The women of FCC are hosting a celebration honoring Women's History Month, on Sunday, March 10, 2024 in Fellowship Hall following our regular church service. Please join us for a brief presentation by Shirley Albers entitled "Sorority, Equality, and LiberTea. The focus will be on the role of tea in the Women's Suffrage Movement in America. The presentation will be followed by a tea party with special refreshments provided by the Single Women's group of FCC.

Come One! Come All to the "Roamin in the Gloamin" St.Patrick's Day Talent Show on March 17 in the Fellowship Hall following worship service. Interested in sharing a talent (ex. Singers, dancers, poetry readers, Irish Limericks or jokes (clean), acrobats, musicians, etc.) with us? If so please fill out a Talent Show Registration Form (minors welcome with parent permission), @ Welcome Center and return form by March 10. All those who want to attend and join in the fun please sign the attendance sheet @ welcome Center before March 10 so we can make sure we have enough refreshments. Donations to cover the cost of refreshments are welcome. Please contact Sue Vander Haar with questions. 231-557-7714-Congregational Life Dept.

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