

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

October 10, 2021



***Come and Be Fed
Fed by Healing***

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

October 10, 2021

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: Like Miriam, let us sing with gladness, for our God triumphs over evil and oppression.

L: Like Hannah, let us pray with grateful hearts, for the Lord our God hears our prayer.

P: Like Jacob, let us wrestle with God, for out of such struggles new faith is born.

L: Like Abraham, let us respond to God's calling, for in faith's journey we find our lives.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***HYMN**

You Are My All in All

Congregation join on refrain:

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.

***OPENING PRAYER**

L: I lift my eyes unto the hills – where does my help come from?

P: Forgive us, O God, when we believe our only help is in our own strength.

L: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

P: Forgive us, O God, when we believe that our only hope is in the quickness of our own minds.

L: The Lord watches over you. The Lord is at your right hand.

P: Forgive us, O God, when we believe that our future is in our hands alone.

L: The Lord will keep you from all harm; God will watch over your life.

P: Forgive us when we believe that we can live without Your grace.

All: May God bless us with humility, love, and grace that we may be God's faithful people. Amen.

L: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

P: And also with you.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Please greet one another with signs of peace)

***GLORIA**

*Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.*

Hearing the Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:25-31

PSALM 30:1-12

R *Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation.*

L: I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

P: **O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**

L: O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

P: **Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.**

L: For God's anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.

P: **Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. R**

L: As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

P: **By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.**

L: To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?"

P: **Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!"**

L: You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

P: **O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever. R**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG OF BLESSING

*Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Celebrating the Meal

(All Christians, regardless of denomination, tradition or age are welcome at the table of our Lord.)

The Invitation to the Meal

L: He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, he was always the guest. At the tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. But here at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him, must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him, must first be fed by him. For this is the table where God intends for us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world. Jesus Christ who sat at our tables now invites us to be guests at his.

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...

The Words of Institution

L: As we together proclaim the mystery of faith...

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Elements

Hymns during the distribution of the elements:

There is a Balm in Gilead

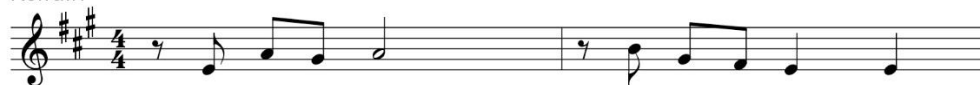
Congregation join on refrain:

***There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.***

Bread for the World

Congregation join on refrain:

Refrain



Bread for the world: a world of hun - ger.



Wine for all peo - ples: peo-ple who thirst. May we who eat



be bread for oth - ers. May we who drink pour out our love.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG (Children preschool through grade 8 leave for Sunday School.)

Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life;

Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life.

Grace is flooding: grace is flooding, grace is flooding from the fountain of life.

Grace is flooding: grace is flooding, grace is flooding from the fountain of life.

Proclaiming the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 5:17-26

SERMON

Come and Be Fed by Healing

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

Healing Hand of Jesus

Congregation join on refrain:

So I will raise my voice in praise to God, I will kneel before the Lamb;

I will give my heart as an offering, I will give you, God, what I am.

***STATEMENT OF FAITH - Indonesia**

I believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.

I believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression.

I believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who are turned toward the truth.

I believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.

I believe in God's promise to finally destroy the power of sin in us all, and to establish the kingdom of justice and peace for all humankind.

I do not believe that suffering need be in vain, that death is the end, that the disfigurement of our world is what God intended.

But I dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform and transfigure, fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth where justice and peace will flourish. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Chancel Choir

THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

Lord in your mercy... **Hear our 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sending

*HYMN

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Congregation join on refrain:

***Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry,
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.***

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Note about offering: During the pandemic we are not passing the offering plate. We thankfully receive your gifts, tithes and offerings in the offering plate on the back table. Your generosity is the engine that powers our church community. Thank you.

Reprinted music used by permission under the following licenses:
OneLicense.net A-703731; CCLI License 2892021

Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Jan Hansen</i>
Deacons:	<i>Linn Lawrence, Marshall Skule, Suzanne Hagen, Cindy Gandrud, Karen Lloyd</i>
Nursery:	<i>Kahla Fuller</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Video Team:	<i>Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter</i>
Trustee:	<i>Matthew Thurston</i>
Counters:	<i>Allen Barnes, Diane Welsh</i>
Music Coordinator & Bell Director:	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Sarah Plum</i>
Church Moderator:	<i>Joel Larsen</i>
Office Administrator:	<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
Youth Pastors:	<i>Alex and Sarah Plum</i>
Minister for Community:	<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
CE Minister:	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
Senior Pastor:	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

*Altar table flowers are given by Traci Hagberg in memory of
Ted and Jean Hagberg's Anniversary.*

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Peg Thompson, Roger Hirstein, Jim, Wendy MacDougall (wife of our Association Minister Rob), Edna (friend of the Danielsons and Petersons), Rosalie Harper (cousin on JoAnn Lentz), Carolyn Larrabee, Donna Moseman, Kelly (relative of Barb Stephens), Joan Hyland, Charles Hoffman (father of Jeff Hoffman), Paul Anderson, Jean and Ted Hagberg (mom and brother of Traci)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the return of our Among Friends and Wednesday Meals. Hallelujah!
- For our Trustees planning the spruce up of our church grounds on Saturday, October 23, may many hands make light work
- For those being fed at the Thai Cooking Class on October 21, may it be a time of connection and joy
- For Glenn Kees and Tim Bylander who are at Moon Beach Camp for the fall work weekend this weekend
- For Coffee Fellowship Hosts, welcomers and liturgists who help enhance our Sunday morning
- For those who continue to support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings and gifts--you are all a blessing

Prayers for our World:

- For our stressed out world, may we find the peace of Christ and the joy of faith
- For the 12,500 Afghani refugees at Fort McCoy, WI, that they may be strengthened in their journey
- For our troubled creation as climate change rears its ugly head, that we may collectively change our behavior
- For healthcare workers who are exhausted after the pandemic, may you be given God's strength
- For teachers, aides and administrators trying to do and balance so much

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For our church mowing team—Joel Larsen, Ryan Luedtke, Larry Peterson and Mike Stifter—thanks for a great year!
- For a return of choir and bells, may they make beautiful music together
- For Darlene Sumption who celebrated her 95th birthday on Sunday, September 19
- For the weekly Mini Farmers Market in our Fellowship Hall when people (Roland Roe and others) bring in their fresh veggies for us to enjoy, bless you
- For the nearly 212 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For Nancy Hines, sister of Diane Welsh, who died suddenly this past week, that her family may be comforted
- For those mourning loved ones as we approach All Saints Sunday on October 31
- For the 700,000 Americans and over 4.6 million worldwide who have died of Covid, may they not have died in vain

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:25-31

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 5:17-26

One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting nearby (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven you.” Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, “Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the one who was paralyzed—“I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.” Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen strange things today.”

Treasurer’s Report

	<u>Oct 3, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,080	\$ 361,066
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 370,480

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.