

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
October 1, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: In the prayers and the praise, in the words and the wonder:

Many: we are given enough joy to live each day.

One: In the justice for the oppressed, in the unexpected generosity for the lost:

Many: we are given enough compassion to use in service each day.

One: In the promises made to all, in the mercy offered to each:

Many: we are given enough grace to share each day

*Opening Song:

"Gather Us In"

#649

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of wondrous love and glorious deeds, shower us with your love and quench our thirst for grace. Strengthen us with your Spirit of power and embolden us to live our faith. Humble us with the example of Jesus and remind us to regard one another as your beloved children.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We would want to be fountains of hope for others, God of glory, but people find only hardened hearts. We would like to be transformed people, but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to you. We long to stand with those who are in need, but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid with judgment.

Forgive us, God who came down to us. Humble us, that we might be true servants to the broken and lost. Split open our frozen hearts, that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting. Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit, that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior, into that kingdom of grace and hope.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: This is the good news: God's plan for salvation was accomplished in Jesus. We are forgiven, we are made new.

Many: We will complete God's joy, by sharing compassion, forgiveness, hope, with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God!

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:23-32

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

inside the back cover of the hymnal (read together)

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:1-13

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"Partial Agreement"

Pastor Chris

Communion Song:

"One Bread, One Body"

#689

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors), Sharing the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of new life, with joy we have received this sacrament of bread and cup, giving you thanks for Jesus, our peace and our hope. Unite your church throughout the world in continuing his ministry of love and servanthood, that your name may be praised in all the earth.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

#34

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy One, we ask that you bless these offerings so they can multiply to be a blessing for our community, our mission, and worldwide. Accept them as a testimony of your goodness in our lives.

***Closing Song:** "O For a World" insert

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer (adapted) are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted) and Words of Assurance (adapted), are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is by Ruth C. Duck from *Bread for the Journey-Resources for Worship* edited by Ruth C. Duck.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
October Radio Sponsor:	Larry & Sandy Person

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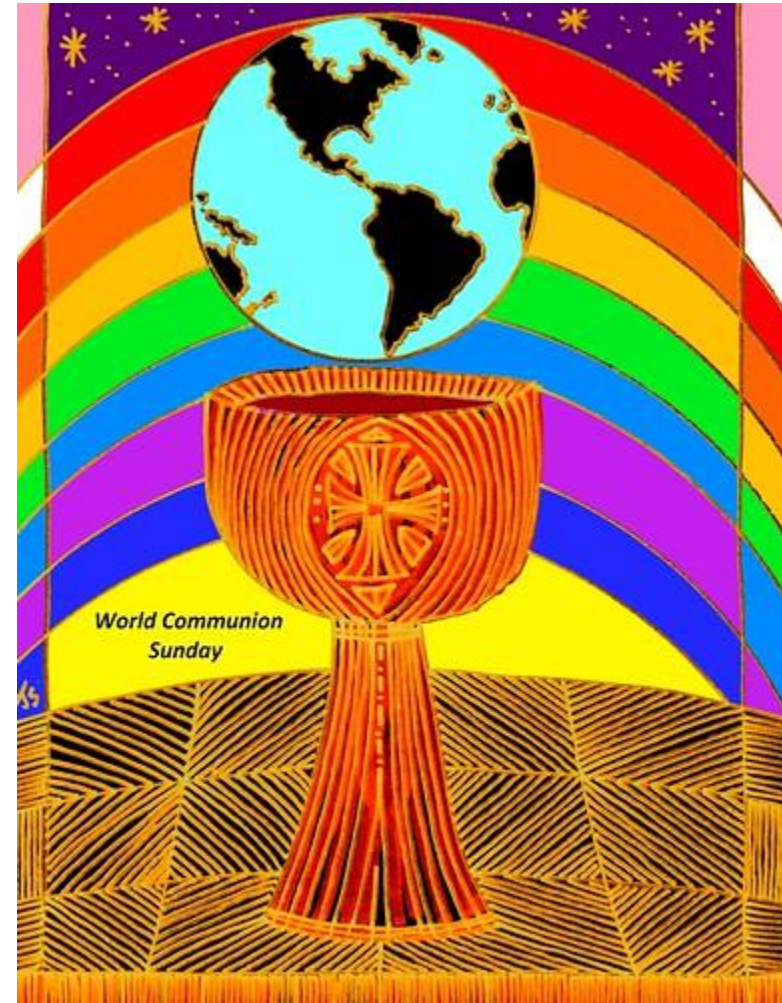
Today, October 1: 10:00 am. – Worship- World Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need Offering
Sunday School
Coffee
Food Pantry

Tuesday, October 3: 9:30-11:30am: Pastor at Feed Mill

Sunday, October 8: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

October 2-6, 9-13, 16: Our church will be responsible for Meals on Wheels. There is a sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board.

Bags of candy are being accepted for the Trunk or Treat. We will also be participating in the Trunk or Treat and need ideas for the trunk.



First Congregational United Church of Christ

165 Years

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