

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
September 12, 2021

Ministry of the Acolyte

Gathering Music #225 “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” vs. 1-2

Come Christians join to sing, Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King, Alleluia! Amen!
Let all with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice
Praise is His gracious choice, Alleluia! Amen!

Come lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky, Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend, To us He'll condescend
His love shall never end, Alleluia! Amen!

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer *Mary Menzies*

Prelude

Responsive Reading *Based on Psalm 136*

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
Give thanks to the God of gods.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

All: His steadfast love endures forever.

One: To him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding
made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made
the sun to govern the day and the moon and stars to govern the night;

All: His steadfast love endures forever.

One: To him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt and
brought Israel out from among them with a mighty hand and
outstretched arm; to him who led his people through the wilderness;

All: His steadfast love endures forever.

One: He remembered us in our low estate and freed us from
our enemies. He gives food to every creature.

All: Give thanks to the God of heaven.
His steadfast love endures forever.

Hymn #244 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver, Born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone:
By Thine own sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.
By Thine own sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

We Lift Up Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

Special Music

We Dedicate our Gifts

*Doxology (#815) and Offering prayer

Scripture

Mark 1:1-15

Mary Menzies

*Hymn #444

“I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story, Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, Because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings, As nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story, 'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story; More wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies, Of all my golden dreams,
I love to tell the story, It did so much for me;
And that is just the reason, I tell it now to thee.

I love to tell the story; 'Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story; For some have never heard
The message of salvation, From God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story; For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting, To hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story, That I have loved so long.

Sermon

“Every Good Story Begins in the Middle”

Brian Muh

*Hymn #300

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

All glory, laud, and honor, To thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children, Made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest, The King and Blessed One.

The company of angels, Are praising thee on high,
And mortal men and all things, Created make reply.
The people of the Hebrews, With psalms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems, Before thee we present.

To Thee, before Thy passion, They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted, Our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises; Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King.

*Benediction

*Response # 713

“Seek Ye First”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Postlude

We welcome the Rev. Brian Muh to the pulpit this week.

Scriptures for Sunday, September 19: Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22; Psalm 54; James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37

Please note: Our guest leader, Victoria Cole, may or may not use these texts.



Our Mission Statement:

As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people at various stages of their spiritual growth.

Online Giving <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YR4H/home>

CHURCH STAFF

Organist & Music Director: Dorothy Morton
Administrative Assistant: Pam Nute

OFFICERS:

Moderator: Tim Gould
Vice-Moderator: Alice Muh
Treasurer: Joyce Krill
Assistant Treasurer: Rachel Clark

COMMITTEES

Christian Education: Kim Smith, Chair
Deacons: Mary Menzies, Chair
Finance: Phil Krill, Chair
Mission: Linda Warden, Chair
Music: Tina Peabody, Chair
Personnel Relations: Tina Peabody, Chair
Property Management: Dan Kiefer
Stewardship: Mary Menzies
Trustee of Trust Funds: Dudley Bailey
Steeple Minute: Pam Nute

Shining Lights Learning Center:

Director: Ms. Melissa Kam
Board President: Suzanne Schott



*Thank you for joining us for worship today!
It is our sincere hope that all who gather in
this place will know and experience the love,
forgiveness, hope, and new life available
through Jesus Christ.*