

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
September 26, 2021

Ministry of the Acolyte

Gathering Music #405 "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord"

I love thy kingdom, Lord, The house of Thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved With his own precious blood.
I love Thy Church, O God! Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye, And graven on Thy hand.
For her my tears shall fall; For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be giv'n, Till toils and cares shall end.
Beyond my highest joy I prize her heav'nly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows, Her hymns of love and praise.
Sure as Thy truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield, And brighter bliss of heav'n.

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer

Mary Menzies

Prelude

Responsive Reading

Based on Psalm 84

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O God of light and glory!

All: My soul longs, yes, my soul faints for your courts.

One: Even the sparrow finds a nesting place beneath your altars;
the swallow finds a place to raise her young.

**All: Happy are those who dwell in your house,
forever singing your praise.**

One: Happy are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are like highways home.

**All: The desert is watered by springs where they walk;
the dry land is nourished with rain.**

One: A day in your courts is better by far
than a thousand days anywhere else.

**All: It is better to serve as a gatekeeper here
than to lounge in the tents of the wicked.**

One: For you are my sun, and you are my shield;
you pour out your blessings upon us.

**All: You pour out your blessings abundantly
on those who do right, who trust in you.
How lovely is your dwelling place, God!
We praise you: Halleluiah!**

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

Old Testament Reading

Haggai 1:2-11

Mary Menzies

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:16-19

Mary Menzies

New Testament Reading

Revelation 21:1-4

Mary Menzies

*Hymn #314 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was seeking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and thro' eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and thro' eternity I'll sing on.

Sermon "What Is This Thing we Call Church?" *Ernest Shipman*

*Hymn #375 "Jesus Shall Reign"

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His Kingdom spread from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown His head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

Let every creature rise and bring
His grateful honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen!

*Benediction

*Response # 403 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" *vs. 1-3*

Christ is made the sure foundation. Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, Binding all the Church in one,
Holy Zion's help forever, And her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call Thee, Come, O Lord of Hosts, today.
With accustomed loving-kindness, Hear Thy people as they pray,
And Thy fullest benediction Shed within its walls always.

Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants, What they ask of Thee to gain,
What they gain from Thee forever, With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in Thy glory, Evermore with Thee to reign.

Postlude

We welcome Ernest Shipman to the pulpit this week.

*Scriptures for Sunday, October 3: Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Genesis 2:18-24,
Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 and Mark 10:2-16*

Please note: Our guest leader, Rev. Jay Sprout, 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

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*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.*

## Neighbors In Need – Special Offering, October 3<sup>rd</sup>



In 2021, NIN is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities.