

Welcome, All Worshipers

**Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.**

"Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us to everyone. The gospel is for everyone, not just for some. It is not only for those who seem closer to us, more receptive, more welcoming. It is for everyone. Do not be afraid to go and to bring Christ into every area of life, to the fringes of society, even to those who seem farthest away, most indifferent. The Lord seeks all – he wants everyone to feel the warmth of his mercy and his love." ~Pope Francis

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(\* indicates when those who are able will stand.)  
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Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BORIS GERBER, LAY READER

(Please complete the Friendship Book as it is passed during announcements; then pass it toward the center aisle.)

MOMENT FOR MISSION – ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

***OPENING HYMN: #490 I WANT JESUS TO GO WITH ME** VERSES 1-3

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd; we will have all that we need; we are released from fear.

All: The Shepherd guides us in fruitful living, giving us healing and pardon.

Leader: Even though difficulties and dangers may lie ahead, we do not need to fear.

All: God's love and strength are as a rod and staff for us.

Leader: God will give us abundantly from God's own love.

All: Surely this goodness and mercy will be with us all of our days, and we will dwell in God's loving care forevermore. AMEN.

***Opening Prayer**

All: Source of Light, God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration of our sight. Clear away our blindness, and give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name. Give us strength and confidence to truly witness to your abiding love and faithfulness. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen.

***The Gloria Patri** (sung)

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 without end. Amen. Words: Anonymous, 4th Century.

Music: Henry Greatorex. This selection is in the public domain.

FIRST READING: EPHESIANS 5:8-14

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: JOHN 9:1-41

SERMON: SEEING IS BELIEVING?

REV. JON GOUGEON

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

***HYMN: #521 IN SOLITUDE** VERSES 1-4

(PLEASE BE SEATED.)

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING

MINISTER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.
PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST.
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.
WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR
JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.**

***CLOSING HYMN: I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT (INSERT)** VERSES 1-3

*Minister: Let us join together and read responsively:

***All: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.**

***BENEDICTION**

Minister: Lord, give us such sight, that we may see the many ways of serving you by helping others. Help us bring sight to others who dwell in deep darkness. Amen.

***UNISON RESPONSE: And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand. Amen.** Words/music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream obtained from One License #A-739847.

Postlude

*Please join us for Fellowship Time following the service.
We would love to get to know you better!*

OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY

Lay Reader: **Boris Gerber** Altar Guild: **Pat Garant**
Ushers: **Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski** Greeters: **Ann & Jeff Gerow**
Fellowship Hosts: **Ron & Lynn Borke** and **Beth & Megan Petty**

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	March 19	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service followed by Fellowship and Congregational Conversation
Wednesday	March 22	5:00 p.m.	Simple Supper & Worship Service (at First Congregational Church)
Thursday	March 23	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Announcements

- ❖ Please note - The final two weeks of Lenten observances are as follows:
 - March 29 - St. Paul Lutheran - Simple Supper at 5:00 followed by Worship Service at 6:00.
 - April 6 - Trinity Episcopal - Simple Supper at 5:00 followed by Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00.
 - April 6 - First Congregational - Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00.
 - April 7 - Grace Lutheran - Tre Ore Service at 12:00 noon.
 - April 7 - First Congregational - Good Friday Service at 6:00.
- ❖ Thanks to all who volunteered to supply soup! Please bring your soup to the church during the day next Wednesday, March 22, no later than 4:00pm. If you bring in your soup early in the day, plug it in and leave on low or high as timing calls for. Remember -- do not bring in cold soup at 4:00.
- ❖ Orders for the florist's Easter flowers must be placed with the church office by this Thursday, March 23.
- ❖ At the back of the sanctuary is a sign-up sheet for all those who wish to help plan our Church Family Reunion and 50-Year Member Celebration.
- ❖ Feed a Family needs for March - Hamburger Helper (all flavors), cereal, canned ravioli and Spagettios, chicken noodle and tomato soups.
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- Our Sunday worship services are live-streamed, shown on the Internet, as they are happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday services may be seen as part of the live-stream and recording.

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A unisex handicap-accessible restroom is located through the doors to your left as you exit the sanctuary. A ladies' room is near the Lockwood Street entrance. A men's room is in the middle hallway.  
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 19, 2023

*We welcome people as they are,
share Jesus as He is, and serve
our community and the world in love.*



Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus
Part-Time Interim Pastor: *Reverend Jon Gougeon*
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*
Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Live-stream Technician: *Brayden Broad*

Office hours: 9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday – Thursday

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