

## Welcome, All Worshipers

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

"Knowing God is a relationship calculated to thrill a man's heart." "To know that nothing happens in God's world apart from God's will may frighten the godless, but it stabilizes the saints." "Your faith will not fail while God sustains it; you are not strong enough to fall away while God is resolved to hold you." ~J.I. Packer

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

#### **WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JIM McNEIL, LAY READER**

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

**\*OPENING HYMN: #459 COME, O FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING ALL VERSES**

#### **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Welcome, you who are called as disciples of Christ! Is anything too wonderful for our God?

**All: Nothing is too wonderful for God who saves us and calls us!**

Leader: We remember the goodness of God who promised Abraham a multitude of descendants and then showed up at Abraham's door to announce that the promise would be fulfilled.

**All: Nothing is too wonderful for God who promises and fulfills promises!**

Leader: We remember the compassion of Jesus who noticed the distress of his neighbors and acted to bring them healing and wholeness.

**All: Nothing is too wonderful for God who heals and restores the distressed!**

Leader: We remember the invitation the Spirit extends to us to join in God's work of compassionate community building.

**All: Nothing is too wonderful for God who empowers us to transform strangers into community through active love.**

Leader: As we worship, may we receive the promise, the compassion, and the invitation to be disciples of Christ who join in God's work of making disciples for the transformation of our households, our community, and our world.

**All: Because nothing is too wonderful for our God! Amen.**

#### **\*Opening Prayer**

Our Lord and our God, in the name of Jesus, we come, today, confessing our sin before you. It is what it is. **You see sin for what it is. Forgive us this day we pray.**

Like Sarah, God, we've doubted you, disbelieving that all things are possible with you. It is what it is, God. **You see sin for what it is. Forgive us this day we pray.**

Like Sarah, God, we've laughed at you, thinking that your miracles have little chance of lifting our hopes. It is what it is, God. **You see sin for what it is. Forgive us this day, we pray.**

Like Sarah, God, we've lied to you. Lied to you, lied to our loved ones, lied to co-workers, church members, and strangers. Yes, we've denied truth, even while we are standing face to face with your truth. It is what it is, God. **You see sin for what it is. Forgive us this day, we pray.**

And help us to know day after day that nothing is too hard for you, Lord. Fixing our broken relationships is not too hard. Finding a good paying job is not too hard. Filling an empty heart is not too hard, God. All things are possible for you. And, we thank you that at this appointed time you forgive us. It is what it is, but it doesn't have to stay that way. **Thank you for making a way out of no way. In Jesus' name, we pray, 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Century.  
Music: Henry Greatorex. This selection is in the public domain.*

**FIRST READING: GENESIS 18:1-15 AND 21:1-7**

**SECOND READING: MATTHEW 9:35-10:8**

**SERMON: IS ANYTHING TOO WONDERFUL?**

**REV. JON GOUGEON**

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

**\*HYMN: #451 BE NOW MY VISION VERSES 1 & 4**

#### **SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING** (PLEASE BE SEATED)

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: #522 I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY** VERSES 1 & 4

**\*BENEDICTION**

Minister: As you go from this place, go together and trust that when we follow the joy of God’s call into the unknown, God will equip us and empower us for the work ahead because nothing is too wonderful for God! 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**

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

Lay Reader: **Jim McNeil** Altar Guild: **Jackie Bell**  
Ushers: **Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski** Greeters: **Ann & Jeff Gerow**  
Fellowship Hosts: **Bill & Dottie Haase and Penny Anderson**

**This Week’s Calendar**

Sunday June 18 10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Fellowship Time

**Announcements**

- ❖ Fellowship Hosts are needed for July and August (including partial month availability). Please use the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.
- ❖ Feed A Family Needs - Individual crackers & cheese packets, crackers & peanut butter packets or cookies packets, Jello or pudding 4-packs, canned Spaghettios or macaroni & sauce, soups (any kind). *Thank you for your continued support to our food pantry. ~Kathy, Salvation Army*
- ❖ Please plan to join us at next Sunday’s Fellowship Time (June 25) for a “Going Away” reception for Pastor Jon and Judy Suszek.
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.

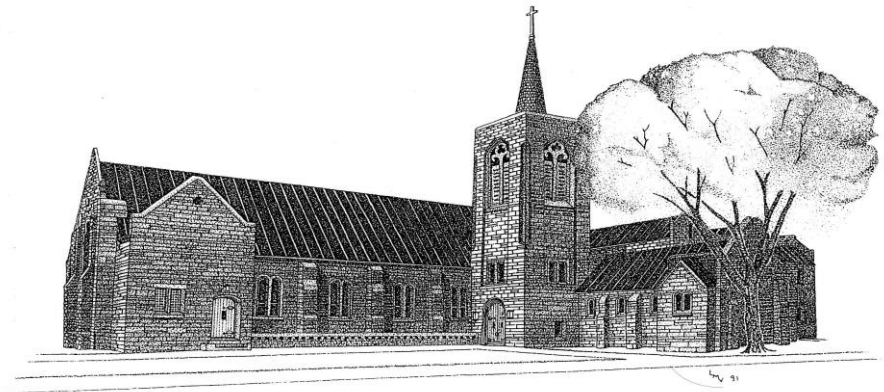
*SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- Our Sunday worship services are live-streamed, shown on the Internet, as they are happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday services may be seen as part of the live-stream and recording.*

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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

June 18, 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*

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

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