

## Welcome, All Worshipers

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

*All that is gold does not glitter,  
Not all those who wander are lost;  
The old that is strong does not wither,  
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.*

*From the ashes a fire shall be woken,  
A light from the shadows shall spring;  
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,  
The crownless again shall be king.*

*~J.R.R. Tolkien*

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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: 495 CALLED AS PARTNERS IN CHRIST'S SERVICE VERSES 1-3

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#### \*Call to Worship:

Leader: God has raised up a mighty savior!

All: Prepare the way! Serve God without fear!

Leader: Thrones, dominions, rulers, powers -- these are all as dust before our God.

All: Prepare the way! Serve God without fear!

Leader: Praise be to God and the day of God's favor.

All: Prepare the way! Serve God without fear!

#### \*Opening Prayer:

All: Amid the holiday rush, let's pause to reflect: not yet on a stable, or star, or Advent candles, or everything for which we're thankful. Those days are surely coming, but others are as well: days of holiness and righteousness, salvation and safety, deliverance and rescue; the dawn of a day when God's tender mercy will outdo oppression and death. Such are the days of Christ's reign. They are surely coming! Let's celebrate today! 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.*

SCRIPTURE: JEREMIAH 23:1-6

ANTHEM

CHOIR

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LYNN BORKE

GOSPEL: LUKE 23:33-43

SERMON: A HILL FULL OF SCEPTICS AND SCOFFERS

REV. JON GOUGEON

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

\*HYMN: #422 COME, O THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME VERSES 1-2

*THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.*

(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 FROM OUR ABUNDANCE WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH  
PASSION FOR JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.

\*CLOSING HYMN: #419 NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD VERSES 1 & 3

*THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.*

#### \*BENEDICTION

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.

Minister: And the blessing God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. 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 OneLicense #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: **Cindy Straley**  
Ushers: **Lynne Stewart** and **Pat Labadie**  
Fellowship Hosts: **Mary Minnick** and **Ann Gerow**

Live Stream Operators: **Jay Kettler**  
and **Lynn Borke**  
Greeter: **Lynne Stewart**

**This Week's Calendar**

Sunday November 20 10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Fellowship  
Tuesday November 22 5:30 p.m. Choir Practice  
Thursday November 24 Office Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!

**Announcements:**

- ❖ Prayer cards for joys and concerns are available on the table in the Narthex.
- ❖ Christmas Eve Poinsettias for the Altar may be purchased by calling Nancy Wedge at 989-356-4402 by November 27. They may be dedicated "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one. The 6" plants are \$17, the 8" plants are \$27; and both are available in red or white.
- ❖ We are decorating the sanctuary for Christmas immediately following this morning's worship service. Please help if you are able!
- ❖ All church members and friends are invited to our Christmas Luncheon, Sunday, December 11 at 11:30am. Tickets for the luncheon are \$12 each and may be purchased by calling Nancy Wedge at 989-356-4402 by November 30.
- ❖ Seeking helpers for December fellowship time. Please call Bill Haase or complete the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you can assist Host Bonnie Bartz on December 4 or 18.
- ❖ Feed A Family items needed: Hamburger and Tuna Helper, Rice & Sides, Noodles & Sides, 4-pack Pudding and Jello Cups, canned Ravioli and canned Spaghetti.
- ❖ Please remember to check for Care Letters each week in the middle hall and to keep the recipients in our prayers.

*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

November 20, 2022

*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*  
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*  
Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*  
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*  
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

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