



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE



MAY 21, 2017

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome

Please turn off cell phones in the sanctuary.

Children in Worship

Infants and children bring life to our worship and are always welcome. Worship Activity Bags for children are located at the back of the church: teal bags for 2-5 years, navy blue for 6-10 years. We offer childcare in our professionally staffed nursery on the lower level for children ages infancy through 6 years old.

Sunday School

Preschool through adult Sunday morning learning is offered during the 9 o'clock hour. FCC is committed to the faith formation of all, so join us for weekly Sunday School in the Christian Education wing located on the lower level.

Sunday Brunch

Please be our guest at the Son Cafe after worship on our lower level. On the menu today: Egg casserole, hash browns, fruit, cake for CE Teacher's Appreciation. Good coffee and conversation are always on the menu.

Interested in Membership?

Contact Pastor Craig, (309)-762-0787 or by email craig@fccmoline.org.

Wi-Fi Password

Welcome!

Resources

Ushers can provide large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers.

Getting connected

Please fill our pew pads to offer us a record of your attendance.

On the Cover

Gentleness, a Fruit of the Spirit -- Margaret Almon

Today
from the life
of the church

Our Puritan and Congregational ancestors have been great supporters of education from the very beginning as a matter of being able to read the Bible.

There was a great emphasis on universal literacy in the early colonial era of the 17th century largely based on the puritan belief in the importance of Bible reading. To this end a 1642 New England law stated,

"See that all youth under family government be taught to read perfectly in the English tongue..."
[notice that women are not excluded].

By 1647 the Massachusetts General Court passed the "Old Deluder Act" calling for the establishment of grammar schools to thwart.

"one chief project of that old deluder, Satan, to keep men from knowledge of Scriptures."
[again - women are included...]

At the time of the American revolution the literacy rate in New England was the highest among the 13 colonies.

Gathering of God's People

PRELUDE

Grand Prelude avec les pedalles de Trompette Meslées
by Jacques Boyvin

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said, "In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me;
because I live, you also will live.

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me;
**and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them
and reveal myself to them."**

*OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. **O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding. Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Risen Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

#104, *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

***SONG OF PRAISE** *Gloria*



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!". The second staff includes a triplet of eighth notes (marked with a '3') and a group of four eighth notes (marked with a '4').

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

***CHILDREN'S TIME**

Graduate Recognition, Sunday School Promotion, Teacher Appreciation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Proclaiming the Good News

SCRIPTURE

ACTS 17: 22-31

A reading from Acts.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66: 8-20

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,
**who has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.**

For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.

**You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;**
you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

**I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will pay you my vows,**
those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

**I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.

**I cried aloud to him,
and he was extolled with my tongue.**

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.

**Blessed be God, because he has not rejected
my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.**

SCRIPTURE

1 PETER 3: 13-22

A reading from 1 Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Ascension by Kevin McChesney

***GOSPEL**

JOHN 14: 15-21

A reading from John.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Michael Swartz

***HYMN**

#321, *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/Debtors)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Ostinato in A Minor by Daniel Krug and Jason Krug

*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.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray. Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen. **Amen.**

Sending in Mission

***HYMN OF SENDING**

#288, *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

***BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Toccata in g minor by Johann Pachelbel



*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of
Nancy and Paul Lackey's 40th wedding anniversary*

SERVING TODAY

Ushers

Pam Wendt, Gary Hammond, Michelle Hammond,
Scott Maranda, Allie Maranda

Lector

Beth Churchill

Liturgist

Mary Newcomb

Sound Tech

Bill Henning

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Craig Jan-McMahon, *Pastor*

Rev. Michael Swartz, *Interim Associate for Pastoral Care*

Maureen Holmes, *Chancel Choir Director*

Pablo Gorin, *Interim Organist*

Gail Glockhoff-Long, *Campanella Ringers Director*

Erin Willhite, *Director of Marketing and Communications*

Angie Cleppe, *Digital Publications*

Becca Peterson, *Director of Family Ministry*

Sara Otta, *Finance Manager*

Wes Llewellyn, *Fellowship Coordinator*

Evan Thornton, *Nursery Coordinator*



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gathered to Share God's Love