



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

*GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE*



**JUNE 24TH, 2018**

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

# Welcome

*Please silence cell phones upon entering 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 in our downstairs nursery for children ages infancy through 6 years old.

## **Sunday School**

On Summer Break

## **Sunday Brunch - On Summer Break**

Join us today as we celebrate Pr. Michael Swartz's 45 years of ordination! Reception today following worship in the Son Cafe. Coffee and cake to be served!

## **Interested in Membership?**

Contact Pastor Craig, (309)-762-0787 or email [craig@fccmoline.org](mailto:craig@fccmoline.org).

## **Wi-Fi Password**

Welcome!

## **Resources**

Ushers can provide large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers.

## **Open and Affirming**

We are an ONA church, please visit [fccmoline.org/ona](http://fccmoline.org/ona) for more information.

## **Getting connected**

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

## **Covert Art**

*David with head of Goliath*

Castagno, Andrea del, 1423 - 1457

## Today from the life of the church

The Philistines were an ancient people known for their conflict with the Israelites of the Bible. The "Five Lords of the Philistines" (Judges 3:3; I Samuel 6:16) are identified with the Coastal City States: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashod, Ekron and Gath.



The particular battle of today's reading from the Hebrew Scriptures may have occurred about 1000 BC, and the writing about it in Samuel was done about 500 BC, so these accounts had been pondered a good long time.

When the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek about 135 BC the word that is "Philistines" in our English Bible was rendered "allophuloi" which simply means "the other nations."

The word "Philistines" is a cognate of the word "Palestine" - which is one name for the Holy Land even today. And the five city states above still refer to geographical areas and cities.

When I traveled to the Holy Land in 1986 one of the pastors on the trip was from the little town of Escalon, in the San Joaquin Valley in California, which he understood to have been named after the Palestinian town Ashkelon above mentioned. So our Mercedes bus pulled into town, and he was photographed near a town sign. He wanted to use the photo to help thank his church members who had donated to support his trip.

*Philistines*  
Pr. Michael Swartz

# Gathering of God's People

## PRELUDE

*Amazing Grace* Arr. Moss

## 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

The wicked shall depart to Sheol, all the nations that forget God.

**For the needy shall not always be forgotten,  
nor the hope of the poor perish forever.**

Rise up, O Lord! Do not let mortals prevail; let the nations be judged before you.

**Put them in fear, O Lord;  
let the nations know that they are only human.**

## \*OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. **O God, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## \*OPENING HYMN

#376 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Eternal God our creator, **in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE**

*Gloria*

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

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!

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Pr. Craig Jan-McMahon

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

# *Proclaiming the Good News*

## **SCRIPTURE**

1 SAMUEL 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.

And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.” David said, “The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine.” So Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you!”

Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul’s sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, “I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them.” So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd’s bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.” But David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s and he will give you into our hand.”

When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 9:9-20**

You, O Lord, will be a refuge for the oppressed,

**a refuge in time of trouble.**

Those who know your name will put their trust in you,

**for you never forsake those who seek you, O Lord.**

Sing praise to the Lord who dwells in Zion;

**Proclaim to the peoples the things God has done.**

The avenger of blood will remember them

**and will not forget the cry of the afflicted.**

Be gracious to me, O Lord;

**see the misery I suffer from those who hate me,  
you that lift me up from the gates of death**

so that I may tell of all your praises and rejoice in your salvation

**in the gates of the city of Zion.**

The nations have fallen into the pit they dug;

**in the snare they set, their own foot is caught.**

The Lord is revealed in acts of justice;

**the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands.**

The nations go down to the grave,

**all the peoples that forget God.**

For the needy shall not always be forgotten,

**nor shall the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Rise up, O Lord, let not mortals have the upper hand;

**let the nations be judged before you.**

Put them in fear, O Lord;

**let the nations know they are but mortal.**

## SCRIPTURE

2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-13

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see--we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return--I speak as to children--open wide your hearts also.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL**

MARK 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Michael Swartz

**\*HYMN**#365 *Jesus Priceless Treasure*

# *Responding to the Good News*

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

*Improvisation on 'Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus*

\*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

# *Sending in Mission*

**\*HYMN OF SENDING**

*#253 I'll Praise My Maker*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*We'll Understand It Better By and By* Arr. Moss



*To the glory of God and in honor of  
our granddaughter Jane's birthday  
Given by: Mary and Charles Curry*

## **SERVING TODAY**

*Head Usher*

Jim Moorhusen

*Ushers*

Kathy Harris

Steve Schippers

Judy Schippers

Gayle Haun

Nancy Michl

*Lector*

Alex Fischer-Oelschlaeger

Curtis Fischer-Oelschlaeger

*Liturgist*

Michael Dyer

*North Door Greeters*

Mary Newcomb

Bruce Wood

*Sound Tech*

Bill Henning

## **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH STAFF**

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Ron Mahar



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*Gathered to Share God's Love*