



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE



SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2019

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome

Today
from the life
of the church

Wi-Fi Password Welcome!

Please silence your cell phones, but please check-in with our Church App and via social media.

For Parents and Children

Activity Bags for children (teal, 2-5 years, navy blue, 6-10 years) hanging in back of sanctuary; professionally staffed nursery, infancy through 6 years old, available downstairs; Hearthside Parenting room, with diaper-changing station, privacy for nursing mothers, and livecast of worship, provided in church office (use side exit and follow the signs).

Live@FCC

Sunday worship is live streamed. Please help support this ministry by sitting in the front two sections. The two sections behind the side aisles are reserved for our guests and for privacy. Children's time is not live streamed.

Interested in Membership?

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

Resources

Ushers can provide large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers.

Open and Affirming: fccmoline.org/ona

We are an ONA church, covenanting with all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression or identity. All people are welcome to participate fully in the life of the church, including the rites, sacraments, and leadership of the congregation.

Cover Art: *The Cripples*, Pieter Bruegel (apx. 1525-1569)

This is the incalculable destiny of the Spirit. The gale that blows across the earth in days of storm drives on into the unknown. And no man can tell where the Spirit of God is going to lead him before his life on earth is done.

Here was Nicodemus. Nicodemus did not know that the wind of the Spirit that was stirring in his heart was going to lead him--do you remember where? To the judgment hall of Pontius Pilate, to demand the dead body of Jesus, to give it a decent burial. It was one of the boldest, most heroic actions in the Gospel narrative. The little group of men in the upper room in Jerusalem did not know that the wind of the Spirit that was stirring them that Pentecost day was going to carry them and their successors to the presence of Caesar and the conquest of the world. Martin Luther, the German monk studying the Epistle to the Romans in his monastery cell, did not know that the wind of the Spirit that was stirring there was going to lead him to the shattering and re-making of the Church. And today, Christendom with two thousand years behind it does not know where the next two thousand years, or shall I say twenty thousand years are going to carry it--to what strength of unity, what triumphs of mission, what redeeming impact on the total life of man. And for the individual--for each of us... --this incalculable destiny of the Spirit stretches out before us.

The Wind of the Spirit
James S. Steward (1896-1990)

Gathering of God's People

PRELUDE

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, "Love one another, even as I have loved you."

Love is more powerful than fear; it is mightier than hatred.

Let the love which God has lavished upon us be poured out to those in need.

**Help us, O Lord, to witness to you by the ways
in which we care for others.**

Remind us, Lord, that we are called to be your disciples.

**As we worship this morning, heal our hearts and spirits
and prepare us for service. Amen.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **Through the ages, O God, you have called to us to follow.
You led us to freedom, to hope and peace. Enter our hearts again today
and lead us to your healing love that we might serve you joyfully in this
world that you have given to our care. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
(Music on the next page)*

** Indicates when to stand in body or spirit*

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer - cy
3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but through all grief dis -
4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud thy



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our sal -
keep-eth; by morn-ing glow or eve-ning shade God's watch-ful eye ne'er
tress-ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay, our peace and joy and
prais-es, that all may hear the grate-ful song my voice un-wea - ried



va - tion. With heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and
sleep - eth. With - in the king - dom of God's might, lo!
bless - ing, as with a mo - ther's ten - der hand God
rais - es. Be joy - ful in the lord, my heart; both



ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills:
all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
gent - ly leads the cho - sen band:
soul and bod - y, take your part:

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another, and against the earth entrusted to our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***SONG OF PRAISE**

Gloria

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!

The image shows two lines of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first line contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath: 'Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!'. The second line contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath: 'Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'. Above the first measure of the second line is a '3' indicating a triplet, and above the second measure is a '4' indicating a four-measure rest.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Kristi Bailey

Proclaiming the Good News

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

JEREMIAH 2:4-13

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? They did not say, "Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 81: 1, 10-16

Sing with joy to God our strength

and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

Yet my people did not hear my voice,

and Israel would not obey me.

So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts,

to follow their own devices.

Oh, that my people would listen to me,

that Israel would walk in my ways!

I would quickly subdue their enemies

and turn my hand against their foes.

Those who hate the Lord would cringe in fear,

and their punishment would last forever.

But I would feed you with the finest wheat

and satisfy you with honey from the rock.”

SCRIPTURE

HEBREWS 13: 1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?' Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

***GOSPEL**

LUKE 14: 1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Craig Jan-McMahon

***HYMN**

*As We Gather At Your Table
(Music on the next page)*

As We Gather At Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word, help us
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life; send us
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast where tri-



know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour-ish
forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife. Give us,
um-phunt Love will wel - come those who had been last and least. There no



us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own; teach us
Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for-gave; may we
more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de-destroy, as we



through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

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.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*The bread is eaten when served; the wine is held to be taken together.
Grape juice is clear; wine is red.*

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray, **We affirm the goodness of life and the openness of the future because our God is a God of life and love. As God comes to us in this act of communion with one another, let us go out to others in Jesus' name. May our every prayer be an action that brings healing, reconciliation and hope to a broken and hurting world. Amen**

Sending in Mission

***HYMN OF SENDING**

*Blest Are the Pure In Heart
(Music on the next page)*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**



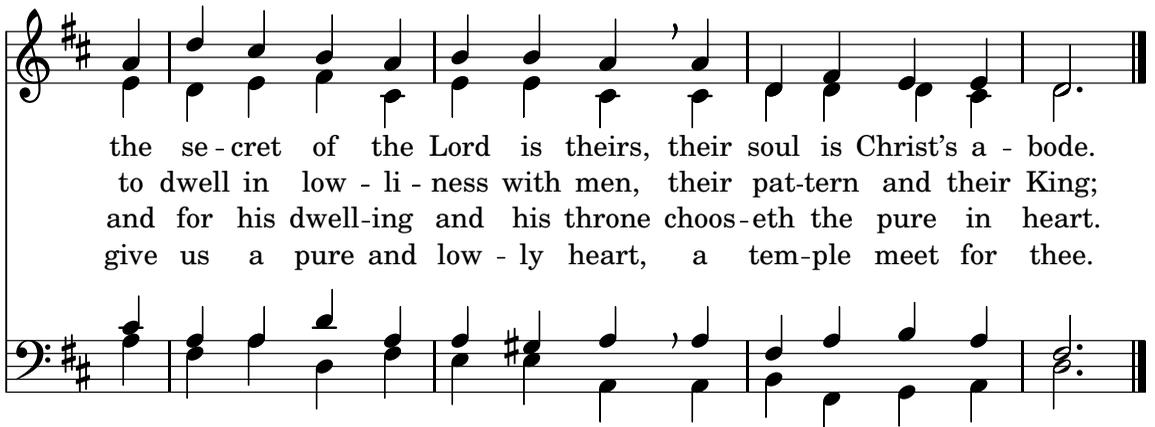
*The altar flowers are given to
the glory of God and in loving memory of
Gerry White Charvat and Susan Charvat*

Given by: Chuck and Faye White

Blest Are the Pure In Heart



1 Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God;
2 The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,
3 Still to the low - ly soul he doth him - self im - part,
4 Lord, we thy pres-ence seek; may ours this bless-ing be;



the se-cret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's a - bode.
to dwell in low - li - ness with men, their pat-tern and their King;
and for his dwell-ing and his throne choos-eth the pure in heart.
give us a pure and low - ly heart, a tem-ple meet for thee.

SERVING TODAY

Ushers

Mary Curry

Charles Curry

Lucy Manis

Nancy Keller

Kathy Harris

Twink Jan-McMahon

North Door Greeters

Dieter Harle

Carol Freeman

Lector

Linda Shearer

Liturgist

Katy Harle

Sound Tech/Live@FCC

Communion Prep

Mary & Charles Curry

Bus Driver

Mike Bealer

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Organist/Pianist

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gathered to Share God's Love