



6th Sunday after Epiphany
February 12, 2023

Welcome

Thank you for worshipping with us!

We are honored to have you at First Congregational United Church of Christ - no matter where you come from or how long you have been away. We are an Open and Affirming 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. For more information please visit: ucc.org/lgbt or fccmoline.org/ona

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located out the side exit through the library and on the lower level through the dining room, across from the kitchen.

COAT RACKS

Coat Racks are located at the Tower Door, Main Sanctuary Doors by the elevator, and on the Lower Level at the bottom of the stairs to the sanctuary. *Feel free to ask a Host for assistance.*

COLORED PENCILS

Colored pencils are in the pews for all to use. Feel free to color throughout these handouts. Leadership knows that listening and keeping our hands busy is valuable and we won't get offended.

CHILDREN'S SPACE

If you have children and are nervous about them being loud, the mother's nursing room is put back together and available in the office conference room. The nursery is also available to use, but parents will have to stay with their children. We also have worship bags available in the back.

COMMUNION

On Communion Sundays, all are welcome to come to the table for communion. Wine and juice are available.

FCC LIVE

Sunday worship is live streamed on Facebook Live and YouTube Live. Please help support this ministry by sitting in the front two sections. The two sections behind the cross aisle are reserved for privacy. Visit fccmoline.org/fclive for details.

LET US SUPPORT YOU

We are here to support you on your journey in faith. Reach out to us, we would be honored to speak with you. Contact the office and we'll help you get connected to a pastor.

Office Phone: (309)-762-0787
Email: admin@fccmoline.org



Gathering As God's People

PRELUDE *"Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart"- arr. Gaspard*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ, where no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey... **You are welcome here!**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those who seek God with their whole heart.
Their eyes are fixed on all that God commands.

We have come to reflect together on God's law.

It is hard to hear, in other places, what God expects.

Ready yourselves to receive all that God supplies.

Attune your hearts to God's promises and warnings.

We expect to be challenged as well as encouraged.

We know that our ways are not God's ways.

God gives us choices that result in life or death.

We can obey or reject the way of life God intends for us.

We seek to know and follow the way of life.

We want to live according to promises we have made.



***GATHERING SONG** *"We All Are One In Mission" (435)*

Preparing Our Hearts

*OPENING PRAYER

We come to you, gracious God, as people of the flesh whose spirits are underdeveloped and undisciplined. We make decisions without giving consideration to us. We make gods of our possessions, our work, our hobbies, even our families. We need to experience your presence and power to bring us to obedience. Make yourself known to us, we pray.
Amen

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The apostle Paul confronted the church at Corinth with their jealousy and quarreling. Jesus preached about anger, dishonesty, and estrangement in ways that called for radical reconciliation. Everything that strains our relationship with others also distances us from God. That is why we come to this time of confession.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, you know the pain of all our broken relationships. Some we have tried to mend, and others we have tried to ignore. We feel your judgment on our estrangements. Heart us as, in silence, we remember them before you. O God, we ask for courage to admit our mistakes and overcome them. Show us what we can do to right the wrongs for which we are responsible, and forgive, we pray, what cannot be changed. Empower us as reconcilers and servants of your way. Amen

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God wants to forgive us, but there is no cheap grace for those of us unwilling to change. To all who seek to give up jealousy, insults, anger, quarreling, adultery, self-centered pride, God offers a new life. There is solid food to nurture us in new ways. God draws us into the community of forgiven and forgiving sinners, in which we support and help one another.

***PASSING OF PEACE** The peace of Christ be with you all... *And also with you.*

CHERUB CHOIR *"Down In My Heart"*

CHILDRENS' TIME

Listening To God's Word

1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

PSALM 119:1-8

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Seek God with your whole heart

Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways.

Seek God with your whole heart

You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

Seek God with your whole heart

O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

Seek God with your whole heart

Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

Seek God with your whole heart

I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

Seek God with your whole heart

I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

Seek God with your whole heart

*MATTHEW 5:21-37

‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.



And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord." But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Responding To God's Word

SERMON

HYMN OF PREPARATION *"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" (347)*

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us offer to God our tithes and offerings.

Please fill out the tear offering the Bridge and place it in the offering plate for attendance. Thank you! Hosts will collect the offering. Alternatively you can give online by scanning the QR Code.



***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this outpouring of the gifts you have so graciously given to us. Let us be mindful to use them to mature our faith and grow your garden in love for all people. Amen

Going Forth as Disciples

***SENDING SONG** *"In Christ There Is No East or West" (439)*

***BENEDICTION**

May you move forward from this gathering with the good news written on your heart, faithfulness embedded in your spirit, and God's wisdom leading your path. In righteousness, grace, and hope, be reconciled.

POSTLUDE *"Grand Processional". - Brahms*



The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Ron and Doris Carlson and Jan Laub.

Given by:
Cliff and Heather Carlson



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Leaders Serving Today...

Pastor Lisa Williams

Organist - Marcia Renaud

FCCLive - Amber Olson

Readers - Linda Shearer

Ushers - Noah Johnson, Kim Fuller

Serving Next Week...

Pastor Michael Dyer

Organist - Marcia Renaud

FCCLive - Amber Olson

Readers - Phil Koenig

Ushers - Jack Reimers, Kathy Reimers

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