

*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin*

January 14, 2018



*This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**

JANUARY 14, 2018

9:00 & 10:30 AM

"SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY"

"My call to the ministry was not a miraculous or supernatural something.
On the contrary it was an inner urge calling me to serve humanity."

~Martin Luther King Jr.

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today! Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall between the 9:00 & 10:30 worship services.</p> <p>~The Nursery is available for young children. ~Church Mouse activity bags are available for children. ~Large print bulletins and hearing impaired devices are available from the ushers.</p> <p>~Please stand when noted by the *</p> <p>~Congregation responses are in bold.</p>	<p><i>No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!</i></p> <p><i>As Jesus' courageous disciples, living God's grace, we strive to:</i></p> <p>~ <i>Worship faithfully</i> ~ <i>Welcome openly</i> ~ <i>Grow spiritually</i> ~ <i>Care passionately</i> ~ <i>Serve generously</i></p>
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PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God is calling you today. What is God calling you to do?

P: **Love. Bless. Serve. Forgive. Repent. Renew.**

L: God is calling us today. What is God calling us to be?

P: **Worship faithfully. Welcome openly. Serve generously. Care passionately. Grow spiritually.**

L: God is here today. What is God doing here among us today?

P: **Speaking to us in Word and song, community and prayer.**

L: Speak to us God!

P: **I am listening! We are listening! Come and lead us!**

All: **Come let us worship the God who leads us into life!**

*HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them.
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them.



My hand will save. I who made the stars of night,
They turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone,
My hand will save. Fin-est bread I will pro - vide



I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
Give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
Till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my



light to them? Whom shall I send?
word to them. Whom shall I send?
life to them. Whom shall I send?



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.



I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Lord, you call, but we do not always recognize your voice.

P: **Sometimes we don't listen carefully. Sometimes we're caught off guard.**

L: Lord, you call, but we haven't always taught others to hear you.

P: **Sometimes we stand in the way, allowing our voices to ring out over yours.**

L: Lord, you call, but we don't always believe our ears.

P: **Sometimes we believe we know better. Sometimes we think you can't possibly be calling us, or her, or him.**

All: **Forgive us, Lord, our unpracticed listening, our closed ears. Help us to hear. Help us to see you at work in our world and our lives. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: God forgives.

P: **The most impossible mistakes.**

L: God forgives.

P: **The most epic failures.**

L: God forgives.

P: **The most grievous sins.**

L: God forgives.

P: **Me and you and us together.**

L: In Christ we are forgiven and set free for new life.

P: **This is good news! Let us live as God's free and forgiven people!**

L: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

P: **And also with you.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please greet one another with signs of peace)

*GLORIA (Cantor begins, choir joins, then all sing twice)



Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land; my Je -



- sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

SONG OF BLESSING (10:30 am) (Children preschool through grade 8 may go to Sunday School. Worship bags and children's bulletins are available in the back.)

*Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! Still today, walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.*

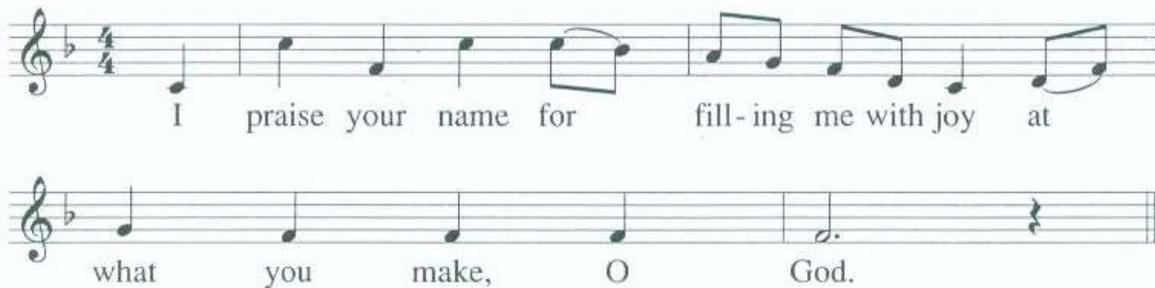
*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 3:1-11

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

Refrain



L: O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

P: **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

L: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

P: **Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.**

L: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

P: **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

L: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

P: **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**

L: Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

P: **My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

L: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

P: In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

L: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

P: I try to count them – they are more than the sand; I come to the end – I am still with you. *R*

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:43-51

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

#173

***STATEMENT OF FAITH - United Church of Canada**

L: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

P: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

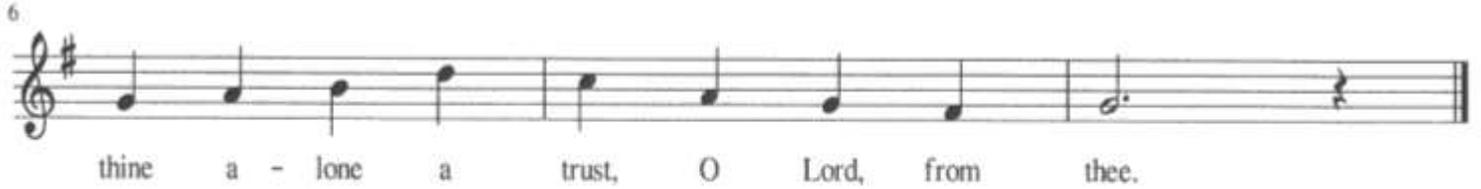
THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

...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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

(As we offer our gifts today, reflect on what it has meant to you to be a person of faith in the year that is past, and what it will mean for you in the new year ahead.)

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"



***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Gracious God, what a gift you have given us in Jesus. Rekindle our faith. Renew our spirits. Vanquish our fear and grant us courage, for where we go, Jesus has gone before. In gratitude therefore we dedicate these gifts and our lives to you. Amen.

***HYMN**

"I'll Fly Away"

#595

***COMMISSIONING**

God has called you by name. Go with the love of Jesus in your hearts and the power of the Holy Spirit in your living. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord your God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Ministers:		<i>The Whole Church</i>
Liturgist:	9:00 am	<i>Sue Danielson</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Alan Tuchtenhagen</i>
Coffee Fellowship:		<i>Cassie Erickson & Mark Klecker</i>
Ushers:	9:00 am	<i>Gloria Gardner, Suzanne Hagen, Bernice Larson</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Cori Fosmo, Kathy and Beth Rausch</i>
Welcomers:		<i>Peg Thompson</i>
Nursery:		<i>Sheila Peterson</i>
Organist:		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Rover:		<i>Wendy Hill</i>
Trustee:		<i>Deb Hoffman</i>
Counters:		<i>Roz Ostendorf, Kris Roen</i>
Among Friends Coordinator:		<i>Norma Revels</i>
Music Coordinator:		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Choir Director:		<i>Scott Perau</i>
Bell Choir Director:		<i>Ross Fugl</i>
Church Moderator:		<i>Neal Prochnow</i>
Church Secretary:		<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
Youth Pastor:		<i>JaNae Westrich</i>
Minister for Community:		<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
CE Minister:		<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
Senior Pastor:		<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

*Altar table flowers are given by Mark and Bernice Larson
in celebration of Megan Peck's 25th birthday.*

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Wayne Petersen, Audrey Johnson (mother of Linn Lawrence), Avis Thompson (Alice Hanson's sister), Dale Purdy (husband of Evelyn), Janine Schulze (Dale Olson's sister), Steve (brother in law of Carole Mottaz), Rae and Mike Farley, Linda (friend of Angie Burke), Barb (sister of Sue Simonet), Neal Prochnow, Delores Herum (mother of Dan Herum), Allan Brown, Ashley Lukens (Barb de Souza's granddaughter), Carolyn (mother of Paula Tiede), Lou Ann Tadych (mother of Dean Grisar), Brooke (niece of Sheila Peterson)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the Chancel Choir leading us in song this Sunday
- For Marie Roe who shared her faith story in worship on December 17 and Matthew Myers who will share his on Sunday, January 21 during the Tell Me a Story moment
- For the ministry of this church as we gear up for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 4 (please make a Reservation for lunch!)
- For our confirmands as they head on a Service Retreat to the Twin Cities on Jan 19-21
- For our Committees, Teams and Council who meet this coming Tuesday
- For those seniors attending the monthly Wellhaven gathering
- For our Church Interns (grades (10-12) who met this Wednesday to talk about Servant Leadership

Prayers for our world:

- For all those who work to continue the dream of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.
- For those who must work outside in the cold weather
- For snow plow drivers, including our own Scott Sippel and Dan Herum
- For those who have been abused that they may find hope, healing and peace
- For our nation that we might heal our Partisan political divisions and work justly to solve our real problems
- For those serving in the military on active duty and the reserves and especially those away from family and for Merle and Jill Paulson's son and his family who will be stationed in Okinawa, Japan soon
- That we all might be better stewards of God's creation

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For the gift of a mid-winter thaw (and a chance to wash cars, sled, go for long walks outside!)
- For Paul Shepherd who graduated with his Doctorate in Education from St. Mary's on Saturday, January 13
- For Alison Conley and Anthony Bos who were engaged on New Year's and plan an August 18, 2018 wedding
- For Beckett Merlyn Welsh, new grandson of Diane and Randy Welsh, born on New Year's Eve who weighed in at 8 lbs and 7 oz and 22 ½ inches long
- For Finley Budensiek born months early at 2 lbs, 15 ounces (niece of Sheila Peterson)
- For the Wednesday Night Family Meal program and those who make it possible. Sign up!
- For those who are providing coffee fellowship this week (could you provide this in the future?)
- For Denny and Lynn Linder who drove to Iowa last week to rescue Lori Nitz from a nasty car crash

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Marlene Wells, especially her husband Zeke, who died recently
- For the family of Bob Anderson, grandfather of Adam Westrich, who died recently
- For the family of Harlan Black who died recently and whose Memorial Service will be here Sat., Jan 20 at 3 pm
- For those who are grieving including the Grove and Morrow families, that God may comfort & strengthen them

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please see the pastor
or use the blue prayer cards in the pews or on the back sign-up table.

NOTES

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Samuel 3:1-11

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."