

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

March 4, 2018



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

MARCH 4, 2018

9:00 & 10:30 AM

"THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT"

"It isn't Narnia, you know," sobbed Lucy. "It's you. We shan't meet you there.
And how can we live, never meeting you?"

"But you shall meet me, dear one," said Aslan.

"Are -are you there too, Sir?" said Edmund.

"I am," said Aslan. "But there I have another name. You must learn to know me by that name.
This was the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, that by knowing me here for a
little, you may know me better there."

~C.S. Lewis, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

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.

- ~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.
- ~Please stand when noted by the *
- ~Congregation responses are in bold.

*No matter who you are. No matter where
you are on your spiritual journey, you are
welcome here!*

*As Jesus' courageous disciples,
living God's grace, we strive to:*

- ~ *Worship faithfully*
- ~ *Welcome openly*
- ~ *Grow spiritually*
- ~ *Care passionately*
- ~ *Serve generously*

GATHERING SONG

"Bind Us Together"

Worship Ensemble

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Gracious God, we praise and thank you.

P: **Thanks be to God for the beauty and diversity of creation.**

L: Thanks be to God for our ancestors of faith.

P: **Thanks be to God for loving families and encouraging friends.**

L: Thanks be to God for meaningful work and refreshing rest.

P: **Thanks be to God for the variety of talents within the body of Christ.**

L: Thanks be to God for freedom of conscience, speech and worship.

P: **Thanks be to God for calling us to covenant relationship.**

All: **With thankful hearts let us worship and praise the Living God who
leads us into life!**

***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 again. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Friends, listen to this good news:

P: God is always present to us, even when we are not present to God.

L: And the love of God never lets us go,

P: Even in the times when we are wounded beyond words and let go of God.

L: In Christ you are forgiven!

P: In Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Together with the grace of God's love, let us let go of our regrets and embrace the goodness of God's love here and now. Amen.

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**

"Bambelela"

Never Give Up

(Worship Ensemble will sing once; congregation join for verse 1 and 2)

Bam - be - le - la, oh,
Nev - er give up, nev - er give up, no,

bam - be - le - la bam - be - le - la bam - ba, bam - ba, bam - ba, bam - ba,
nev - er give up, nev - er give up, nev - er, nev - er, nev - er, nev - er,

bam - ba, oh, bam - ba, bam - be - le - la.
nev - er no, nev - er, nev - er give up.

TIME WITH CHILDREN (10:30 am)

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG OF BLESSING (10:30 am) (Today is an "All Worship Sunday" during which children worship with their parents. Sunday School resumes next week. Young children may return to the nursery. Worship bags and children's bulletins are available in the back.)

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

PSALM 19:1-10 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

R

L: The heavens are telling God’s glory; heaven’s arches proclaim God’s handiwork.

P: **Day to day pours forth speech, night to night declares knowledge.**

L: There is no speech, there are no words; no sound can be heard.

P: **Their call goes out to all the world, to the ends of the earth their message.**

L: In the heavens God pitched a tent for the sun, which comes forth as a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, like a strong man running his course.

P: **From the uttermost edge of the heavens he goes and runs about the end of them again; nothing is hid from his burning heat.**

L: The Holy One’s teaching is perfect, restoring my soul. God’s decrees are sure, making wise the simple.

P: **The Holy One’s precepts are right, rejoicing my heart. God’s commandments are pure, giving light to my eyes. *R***

*HYMN

"We Are Called"

Verses



1. Come! Live in the light!
2. Come! O - pen your heart!
3. Sing! Sing a new song!



Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are
Show your mer - cy to all those in fear! We are
Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will



called to be light for the king - dom, to
called to be hope for the hope - less so all
reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God!
ha - tred and blind - ness will be no more!
sis - ters and broth - ers u - ni - ted in love!

Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly, we are called to serve one an - oth - er;



to walk hum - bly with God!

***STATEMENT OF FAITH - from the Iona Ecumenical Community in Scotland**

L: Let us affirm our faith.

P: We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the One God, maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky. Born of Mary, faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah, Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed heaven on earth. Condemned by the religious, crucified by the state, He died but transformed even death and rose to life everlasting. He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit and sent them forth, east and west, north and south. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as brothers and sisters and to the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

"Give Thanks"

Worship Ensemble

(As we offer our gifts today, ask yourself the question: "What is God trying to do in your life now?")

"With Our Voices We'll Tell"



***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God of Extravagant Love, **fill our spirits with your love and place upon our hearts your call to serve all in the name of Christ. We ask that you dedicate our gifts and our lives to faithful service and ministry. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION

All Christians, regardless of denomination, tradition or age are welcome at the table of our Lord. When invited, please come forward down the center aisle. Receive a piece of bread (both wheat and gluten-free breads are available) and a cup from the tray (white is grape juice and red is wine). Children choosing not to commune are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing. Return to your seat using the outside aisle. If you are unable to come forward, communion will be brought to you.

The Invitation to the Supper

L: At the Last Supper, Jesus, sharing bread and cup, invited his disciples to share his journey. Like many grains of wheat becoming one loaf of bread, the disciples were invited to become one body with him. Here in this meal, we are invited to become one with him. Here, we renew our journey with Jesus and his fellow disciples. So come, taste this bread, share this cup, that you may be strengthened in your walk with Jesus.

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: We offer you praise, ...

The Words of Institution

L: We rejoice in this holy meal as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Elements
Hymns during the distribution of the elements:

"The Lord's Prayer"

Unison

F C F C F Dm B \flat C

1. Our Fa-ther, which art in heav-en,
 2. Done on earth as it is in heav-en,
 3. And for-give all our debts, hal-low-ed - a be thy
 4. Lead us not in - to temp-tation,
 5. Thine is the king-dom, pow-er, and glo-ry,
 6. A - men, a - men, a - men,

F C F C7 F C

Thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
 Give us this day our dai - ly bread,
 name.
 As we for - give our debt - ors,
 But de - liv - er us from e - vil,
 For - ev - er and ev - er,
 A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men,

F B \flat C F *Fine*

hal - low - ed - a be thy name.

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to our God in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to our God in prayer!*

*Are we weak and heavy laden, burdened with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to our God in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to our God in prayer!
Jesus' arm will take and shield you; you will find a solace there.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN

"Soon and Very Soon"



1. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
2. No more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
3. No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
4. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,



Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
No more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,



Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
No more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King, Hal-le -
No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,



lu - jah, Hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -



jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

*COMMISSIONING

Jesus has fed your body, God has fed your soul, and the Holy Spirit is ready to feed you as you leave these doors and become Christ's body in the world. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord your God. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Reprinted music used by permission under the following licenses:
OneLicense.net A-703731
CCLI License 2892021

Assisting in today's worship service are:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Ministers: | | <i>The Whole Church</i> |
| Liturgist: | 9:00 am | <i>Allen Barnes</i> |
| | 10:30 am | <i>Midge Kees</i> |
| Coffee Fellowship: | | <i>Fred & Yvonne Benson</i> |
| Ushers: | 9:00 am | <i>Gloria Gardner, Suzanne Hagen, Bill & Martha Olson, Lee Lueck</i> |
| | 10:30 am | <i>Dan Herum, Evelyn Purdy, Beth & Kathy Rausch, Matthew Myers</i> |
| Welcomers: | | <i>Aspen and Colin Richter</i> |
| Nursery: | | <i>Sheila Peterson</i> |
| Organist: | | <i>Marsha Pearson</i> |
| Rover: | | <i>Deb Hoffman</i> |
| Trustee: | | <i>Allen Barnes</i> |
| Counters: | | <i>Kris Roen, Allen Barnes</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 Chris & Tracy Vanasse Family
in memory of Matthew Bradley Vanasse.*

First Congregational UCC, 110 N. Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022

Tel: 425-2052 Email: office@firstchurchrf.org Fax: 425-9800

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Mon., March 5 | 5:15 pm | - Among Friends Meeting |
| Tues., March 6 | 9:00 am | - Yoga |
| | 9:00 am-3:00 pm | - Among Friends |
| Wed., March 7 | 3:45-5:15 pm | - Wednesday School |
| | 5:15-6:15 pm | - Family Meal |
| | 5:45-6:30 pm | - Jubilee Ringers |
| | 6:00 pm | - Spirit & Health Meeting |
| | 6:30 pm | - Lenten Worship – Confirmation Part 1 |
| | 7:00 pm | - Confirmation Part 2 - Confirmation Years 1 & 3 (Grades 7 & 9) |
| | 7:00-8:00 pm | - Chancel Choir |
| | 9:00 pm | - Worship Service on Channel 16 |
| Thurs., March 8 | 9:00 am | - Yoga |
| | 12:00 pm | - Worship Service on Channel 16 |
| Fri., March 9 | 6:00 pm | - 6 th Grade Confirmands Leave for Confirmation Retreat |
| Sat., March 10 | 3:00 pm | - 6 th Grade Confirmands Return from Confirmation Retreat |
| Sun., March 11 | 9:00 am | - Worship Service |
| | 9:00 am | - Adult Forum |
| | 10:00 am | - Coffee Fellowship |
| | 10:30 am | - Worship Service |
| | 10:45 am | - Sunday School |
| | 11:00 am | - WEVR Broadcast |

Easter Breakfast

The Annual Easter breakfast will be in the Fellowship Hall on **Easter Sunday, April 1**. Our confirmands serve a lovely meal consisting of pastries, fruit, eggs, sausage and blueberry French toast. Juice, coffee, tea and milk are also served. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 am (right after the early 7:00 am Sunrise Service) until 10:15 am (right before the late worship service). Please use the sign-up sheets to let us know you are coming. There is a free-will offering for the meal, all of which goes to our youth programming here at church. Please bring your friends and family!



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, Carolyn (mother of Paula Tiede), Lou Ann Tadych (mother of Dean Grisar), Nancy (sister of Bobbie Kuhn), Barb (sister of Susan Walden), Finley Budensiek born months early at 2 lbs, 15 ounces (niece of Sheila Peterson), Bob Johnson, Davey Keatley, Doug Hoffman, Anna, Brad (son-in-law of Midge and Glenn Kees), Paige (daughter-in-law of Kathy Wochomurka), Beth Rausch, Mary (Sheila Peterson's mom), Stewart Lentz

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the Praise Group leading us in joyous music this week
- For our interns who met with Fardosa Hassan, Muslim chaplain at Augsburg College to learn about Islam
- For Carol Merriman who finished up a two month volunteer position at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS
- For the rescheduled Indoor Mini Golf and Veterans Gatherings on Sunday, March 18
- For Diane Welsh as she shares her faith story on March 18 during the monthly Tell Me a Story moment
- For Ruth and her five month old baby, Itzel, our newest asylum family who arrived recently
- For our church piano getting its 'guts' replaced this week and the church angel who paid for it
- For our choir getting ready for its annual Good Friday Cantata on Friday, March 30 at 6:30 pm
- For the Creation Care Team bringing meteorologist Paul Douglas to town on Tuesday, April 10 at 7:00 pm to talk about faith and climate change
- For the Relay for Life Group who served its Annual Soup Supper and as they gear up for the Annual Relay for Life Event at RFHS on April 6-7

Prayers for our world:

- For the latest school shooting, this time in Florida, that we may be cured of this senselessness
- For custodians and all who work behind the scenes to clean up after us, especially our church custodian, Dave
- For those traveling over Spring Break, UWRF and Hudson March 12-15, River Falls March 26-30
- 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
- That we all might be better stewards of God's creation and work harder to address climate change now

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For the Trustees who cleaned our church top to bottom this past Saturday. Bless you!
- For the It Takes a Village Concert last week to benefit the village and school in Haiti (over \$7000 raised!)
- For the gift of Lent, a time to renew, recreate and revamp our lives and our world
- For the gift of ARC and all those who volunteer to make this place possible in our community
- For Bentley Fuller, born February 7 to Farnum and Kayla Fuller and to be baptized on March 18
- For all those who work on church teams & committees, teachers, mentors, singers and volunteers. Bless you!
- 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?)

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Pam, aunt of Callie Trautmiller, who died recently
- For the family of Marlee Erladson, niece of Diane & Randy Welsh, who died unexpectedly at just 2 years old
- For those in mourning in Florida that their deaths may not be in vain
- For the family of Audrey Alton Black who died this week and whose Memorial Service will be March 19
- For those who are grieving including the Miller, Black, Walden, Wells 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 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.