

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

*May 13, 2018*



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

MAY 13, 2018

9:00 & 10:30 AM

*“MOTHER’S DAY”  
“SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER”*

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“As a mother comforts her child, so God will comfort you; and you will be comforted...”  
~Isaiah 66:13

“My mother is a walking miracle.” ~Leonardo DiCaprio

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today!</p> <p>Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall between the 9:00 &amp; 10:30 worship services.</p> <p>~The Nursery is available for young children.</p> <p>~Church Mouse activity bags are available for children.</p> <p>~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></p> <p>~ <i>Welcome openly</i></p> <p>~ <i>Grow spiritually</i></p> <p>~ <i>Care passionately</i></p> <p>~ <i>Serve generously</i></p> |
|---|---|

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** Fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers,

**P:** Families in all shapes and sizes,

**All:** Come and worship.

**L:** Loud singers and quiet hummers,

**P:** Quick learners and patient teachers,

**All:** Come and worship.

**L:** We who feel younger than springtime

**P:** Or older than the hills,

**All:** Come and worship.

**L:** We who go faster than the speed of light

**P:** Or slower than molasses,

**All:** Come and worship.

**L:** On this special, holy day,

**P:** Come and worship.

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

**\*HYMN**

*"Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!"*

**#257**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Faithful God and Patient God, you are as near to us as breath and as constant as the waves on the shore. Yet how often our lives fail to mirror your ways. We are sometimes absent from our children, giving into pressures at work or yielding to the lure of success and money. We are at times distant from one another, for though we are in the same place, our hearts and minds wander and stray. We choose not to listen, to only half-hear the words of another. Restore our sense of belonging to each other. Heal our relationships and encourage us to be caring fathers, strong mothers and wise friends. Teach us the way of love and the path of Jesus. Amen.

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**L:** Friends, hear this good news: God claims us as God's own.

**P:** We are loved forever, no matter what we have done or failed to do.

**L:** In Christ we are granted newness of life;

**P:** Let us rejoice in the assurance that, in the name of Jesus, we are forgiven.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**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**

*“Alleluia! Give the Glory”*

REFRAIN: (♩. = 76-80) All

Capo 3: (C/D) (G) (Bm7) (C) (Cm)  
Eb/F Bb Dm7 Eb Ebm

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia! Give the glo - ry and the

hon - or to the Lord! Al - le -

Final  
(G/D) (Em7) (A7) (C/D) (G) (C/G) (G) Fine  
Bb/F Gm7 C7 Eb/F Bb Eb/Bb Bb

glo - ry and the hon - or to the Lord!

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Chancel Choir**

**TIME WITH CHILDREN (10:30 am)**

**JaNae Westrich**

**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 the little children, all the children of the world,  
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight,  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

PSALM 47 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

*R*



- L: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout unto God with loud songs of joy.
- P: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great ruler over all the earth.**
- L: God subdues the peoples and nations,
- P: And chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom God loves.**
- L: God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- P: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our God, sing praises.**
- L: For God rules all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.
- P: God is supreme over the nations; God sits upon a holy throne.**
- L: The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.
- P: For the shields of the earth belong to God who is highly exalted. *R***

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:44-53

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

*"The Gift of Love"*

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,  
2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,  
3. Come, Spir - it, - come, our hearts con - trol,

and have the gift to all in - spire,  
and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,  
our spir - its long to be made whole.

and have not love, my words are vain,  
but not be given by love with - in,  
Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;

as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.  
the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.  
by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

**\*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**

*"With Our Voices We'll Tell"*



Let us bring ev - 'ry gift, let us trea - sure ev - 'ry grace: As you've

3



giv - en to us, let us share. In our neigh - bor to - day we will

6



meet you face to face, Let your love be the rule ev - 'ry - where.

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Gracious God, in response to your great love for us, we gratefully offer the fruits of our labor and our lives in these gifts. Bless and multiply them, we pray, that the transformative power of your love will be a reality in our neighborhood and community. Amen.

*"How Can I Keep From Singing"*

Verses



1. My life flows on in end-less song A -  
 2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I  
 3. What though the tem-pest 'round me roar, I  
 4. When ty-rants trem-ble, sick with fear, And  
 5. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A



bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion. I hear the real though  
 hear that mu-sic ring-ing; It sounds and ech-oes  
 hear the truth it liv-eth. What though the dark-ness  
 hear their death knells ring-ing; When friends re-joice both  
 foun-tain ev-er spring-ing. All things are mine since



far-off hymn That hails a new cre-a-tion.  
 in my soul; How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 'round me close, Songs in the night it giv-eth.  
 far and near, How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 I am his; How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm, While to that rock I'm



cling-ing. Since love is Lord of heav-en and earth,



How can I keep from sing-ing?



## \*COMMISSIONING

You have been called and now you are sent - sent into a future that is sure because it is God's future. Even though you do not know where you are going, go with courage and faith. God is with you. Christ informs you. And the Holy Spirit strengthens you. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord your God.

**Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

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### Assisting in today's worship service are:

|                                   |                 |   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| <b>Liturgist:</b>                 | <b>9:00 am</b>  | <i>Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn</i>                            |
|                                   | <b>10:30 am</b> | <i>Jill Paulson</i>                                     |
| <b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>         |                 | <i>Church Interns</i>                                   |
| <b>Ushers:</b>                    | <b>9:00 am</b>  | <i>Peter Rayne, Gloria Gardner, Suzanne Hagen</i>       |
|                                   | <b>10:30 am</b> | <i>Dan Herum, Evelyn Purdy, Matthew Myers</i>           |
| <b>Welcomers:</b>                 |                 | <i>Elaine Dixen, Arthur Rice, Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn</i> |
| <b>Nursery:</b>                   |                 | <i>Sheila Peterson</i>                                  |
| <b>Organist:</b>                  |                 | <i>Marsha Pearson</i>                                   |
| <b>Rover:</b>                     |                 | <i>Bob Gustafson</i>                                    |
| <b>Trustee:</b>                   |                 | <i>Allen Barnes</i>                                     |
| <b>Counters:</b>                  |                 | <i>Roz Ostendorf, Marie Roe</i>                         |
| <b>Among Friends Coordinator:</b> |                 | <i>Norma Revels</i>                                     |
| <b>Music Coordinator:</b>         |                 | <i>Marsha Pearson</i>                                   |
| <b>Choir Director:</b>            |                 | <i>Scott Perau</i>                                      |
| <b>Bell Choir Director:</b>       |                 | <i>Ross Fugl</i>  |
| <b>Church Moderator:</b>          |                 | <i>Neal Prochnow</i>                                    |
| <b>Church Secretary:</b>          |                 | <i>Missy Luedtke</i>                                    |
| <b>Youth Pastor:</b>              |                 | <i>JaNae Westrich</i>                                   |
| <b>Minister for Community:</b>    |                 | <i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>                              |
| <b>CE Minister:</b>               |                 | <i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>                         |
| <b>Senior Pastor:</b>             |                 | <i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>                                 |

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

**Tel: 425-2052 Email: [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org) Fax: 425-9800**

- Sun., May 13
- 8:00 am - Music Practice
  - 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
  - 11:30 am - Relay for Life Plant Sale
- Tues., May 15
- 8:00 am - Men's Group
  - 9:00 am - Yoga
  - 9:00 am-3:00 pm - Among Friends
  - 1:00-2:30 pm - Bible Study
  - 3:00 pm - Wellhaven Gathering
  - 6:30 pm - Boards and Committees Meetings
  - 7:30 pm - Church Council Meeting
- Wed., May 16
- 6:00 pm - Jubilee Ringers
  - 7:00 pm - Chancel Choir
  - 9:00 pm - Worship Service on Channel 16
- Thurs., May 17
- 9:00 am - Yoga
  - 12:00 pm - Worship Service on Channel 16
- Sun., May 20
- Music Sunday
  - 8:00 am - Music Practice
  - 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 – LAST DAY
  - 11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast
  - 11:30 am - Youth Lawn Games and Lunch

**Please remember the following in your prayers this week:**

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Audrey Johnson (mother of Linn Lawrence), Avis Thompson (Alice Hanson's sister), Janine Schulze (Dale Olson's sister), Steve (brother in law of Carole Mottaz), Rae and Mike Farley, Carolyn (mother of Paula Tiede), Nancy (sister of Bobbie Kuhn), Brad (son-in-law of Midge and Glenn Kees), John Hyland, Alice Hanson, Maija (granddaughter of Barbara Stephens), Lana Tiede, Dee Nelson (see prayers of thanksgiving below)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For all the mothers in our congregation that they may experience the grace of Jesus here
- For our 12 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Confirmands who were welcomed into the faith of Jesus this Sunday:  
Ethan Cernohous, Nyssa George, Dennis Grisar, Zac Johnson, Zach Martin, Maddie Morrow, Meridith Okal, Sophia Okal, Kim Swanson, Erin Syverson, Maria Tiede, Olivia Vanasse
- For the Chancel Choir leading us in joyful song this Sunday and gearing up for Music Sunday next week
- For Suzanne Hagen and Jean Smith who just finished their last Lay Academy weekend (a 2 year lay program)
- For Merle Paulson who will be sharing his faith story next Sunday during the Tell Me A Story moment
- For those in our Church Intern who gathering at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Draft this past Wednesday that they may grow in faith, love and service (we have 23 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade interns!)

Prayers for our world:

- For all who have been given the calling of motherhood that they may grow in love (and rest!)
- For those struggling with alcohol issues that they may find help and hope
- For the hope and the possibility of peace in the Koreas
- For those who are stressed out and overwhelmed...that they may grow into the peace of Christ
- For those who are victims of random violence
- For our political leaders that our nation might work justly and for the common good
- For those working to care for our delicate creation and the daily decisions we make to help do this

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For the Relay for Life plant sale today – may it bring forth joy and beauty in our world
- For our church neighbor, member and 102 year old friend: Praise and glory for each new day!
- For all those graduating from college, especially UWRF this weekend
- For the Deacons who served the confirmation banquet last weekend and welcomed our 12 confirmands
- For the Trustees who cleaned up our church grounds at the annual Spring Clean Up recently
- For those who are pregnant that God may watch over them and keep them healthy
- For baby Vivian, newest granddaughter of Kathy Wochomurka
- The gift of baptism whereby we welcome people into the faith and family of Jesus Christ, especially for Trudy Papp received into the church through baptism recently
- For Rhett Theisen who receive his first communion on May 6
- For Mike Gardner, Roger Kampstra, Pastor Chris and Brad Williams who are leading up the men's group

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of the Rev. Ed Stigen (pastor of Tomah UCC) who died recently
- For the family of Lou Ann Tadych, mother of Dean Grisar, who died recently
- For the family of Ethel Johnson, mother of Dennis Johnson, who died recently
- For those who are in mourning including the Lawrence, Casey, Herum and Lentz families

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.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 1:1-11**

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 24:44-53**

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.