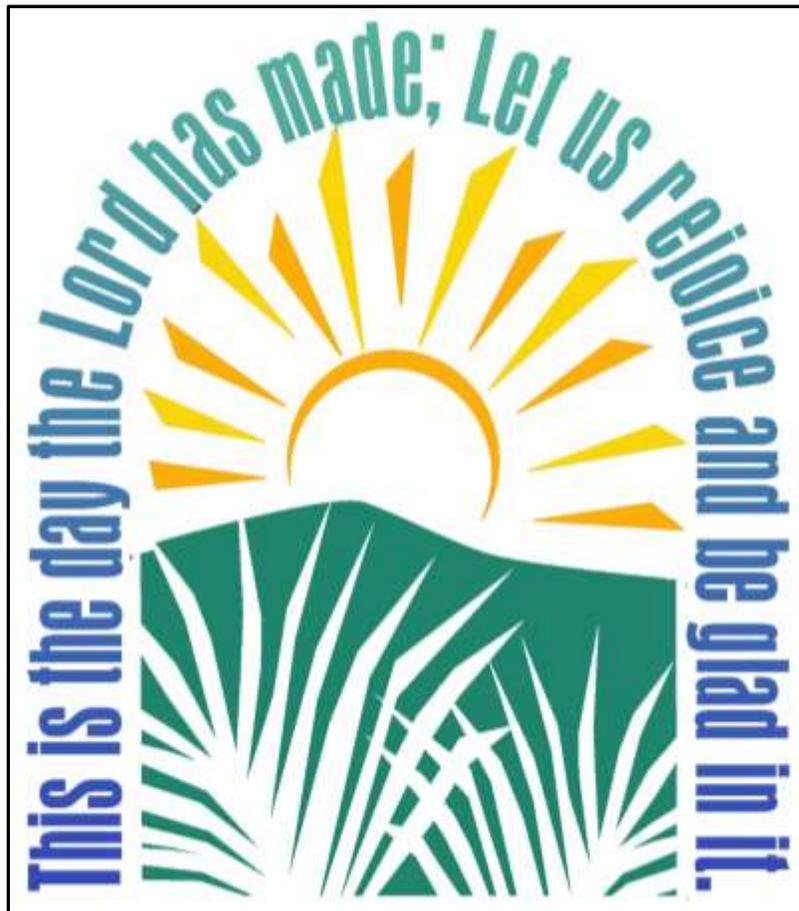


*First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
River Falls, Wisconsin*

*July 1, 2018*



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

JULY 1, 2018

9:30 AM

*"SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST"*

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*"The problem with miracles is that it is hard to witness them  
without wanting one of your own."  
~ Barbara Brown Taylor*

Welcome to our guests who are visiting  
with us today!

Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall  
following the 9:30 worship service.

~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*

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** Jesus said, "Come to me, all who are weary and I will give you rest."

**P:** **We come weary.**

**L:** Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would  
I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"

**P:** **We come searching for our place.**

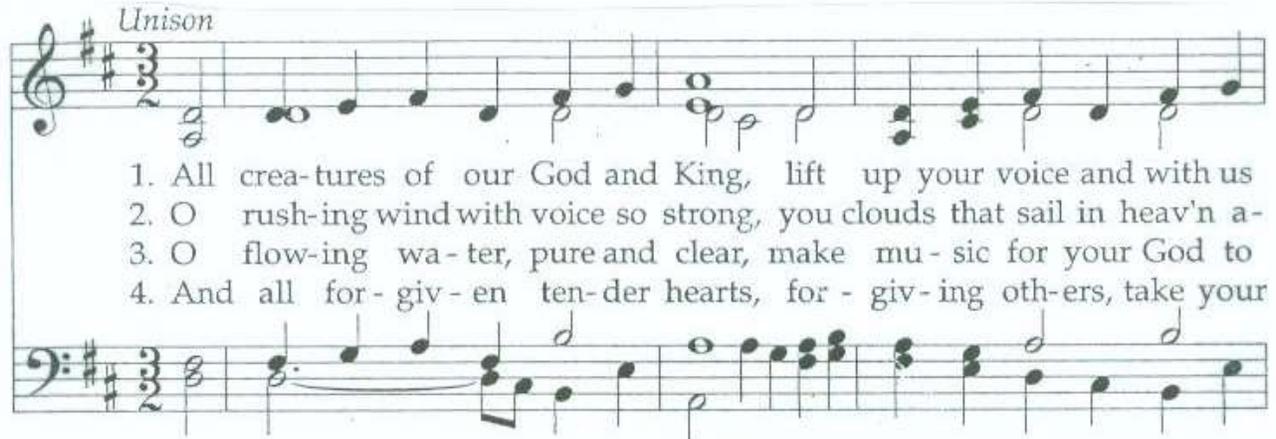
**L:** Come, worship the Christ who gives new life to the world-weary.

**P:** **Come, let us find the space reserved for us and all who hope in Christ.**

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

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

*Unison*



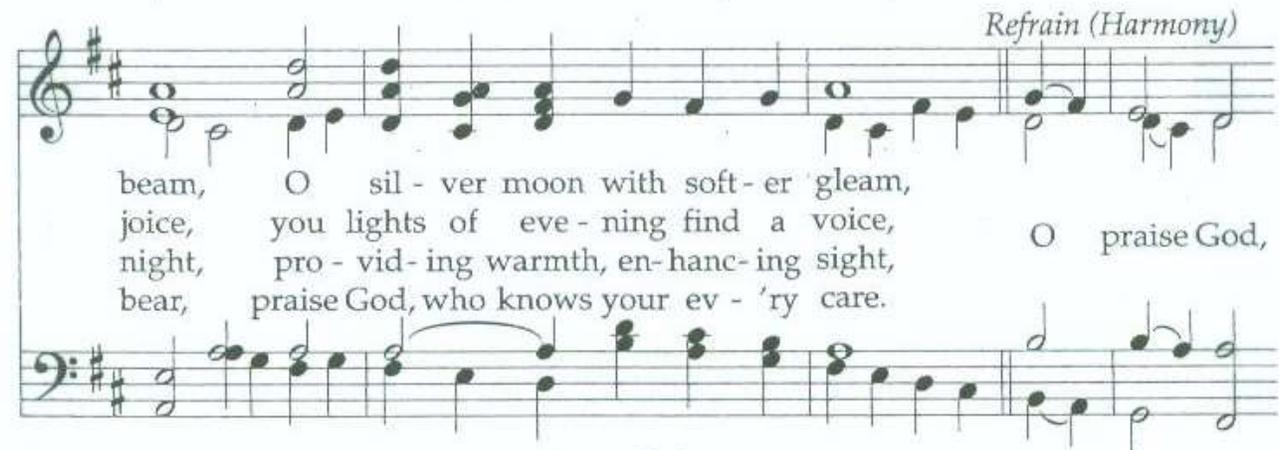
1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us  
2. O rush-ing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n a-  
3. O flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make mu-sic for your God to  
4. And all for-giv-en ten-der hearts, for-giv-ing oth-ers, take your

*Harmony* *Unison*



sing; Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! O burn-ing sun with gold-en  
long, O praise God, Al-le - lu - ia! O ris-ing morn, in praise re-  
hear, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! O blaz-ing fire who lights the  
part, sing prais-es, Al-le - lu - ia! You who long pain and sor-row

*Refrain (Harmony)*



beam, O sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam,  
joice, you lights of eve-ning find a voice, O praise God,  
night, pro-vid-ing warmth, en-hanc-ing sight,  
bear, praise God, who knows your ev-'ry care.

*Unison*



O praise God, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia!

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, as people who profess to know you, we come before you aware of how far we have fallen short. You have given to us all that makes life good, yet we do not live our thankfulness. What we have we take for granted, and we grumble about what we lack. Too often we squander your bounty, with little thought of those who will come after us. We are more troubled by the few who have more than by the many who have less. Forgive us, O God. Teach us to make gratitude and sharing our way of life; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Rejoice! The kingdom of God has come near to us!

P: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and strengthened for the journey.**

L: Let us follow then in his example,

P: **And live as his faithful disciples. 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 (Sung twice) (#236)

*Halle, Halle, Halle - lu - jah, Halle, Halle, Halle - lu - jah  
Halle, Halle, Halle - lu - jah, Hallelujah, Hal-le-lu-jah*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

PSALM 30 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

*℞ Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!*

L: I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

P: **O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**

L: O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

P: **Sing praises to the LORD, O you faithful ones, and give thanks to God's holy name.**

- L: Whose anger is but for a moment; whose favor is for a lifetime.
- P: Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**
- L: As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."
- P: By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.**
- L: To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!"
- P: You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever. ℣**

## GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 5:21-43

## SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

## \*HYMN

*"O Christ the Healer, We Have Come"*

*Tallis' Canon*

*O Christ, the healer, we have come  
to pray for health, to plead for friends.*

*How can we fail to be restored,  
when reached by love that never ends?*

*From every ailment flesh endures  
our bodies clamor to be freed;  
yet in our hearts we would confess  
that wholeness is our deepest need.*

*In conflicts that destroy our health,  
we diagnose the world's disease;  
our common life declares our ills:  
is there no cure, O Christ, for these?*

*Grant that we all, made one in faith,  
in your community may find  
the wholeness that, enriching us,  
shall reach the whole of humankind.*

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH (World Council of Churches)**

**I believe in the living God, the Maker of all humankind who creates and sustains the universe in power and in love.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate on earth, who showed us by his words and work, suffering with others, conquest of death, what human life ought to be and what God is like.**

**I believe that the Spirit of God is present with us now and always, and can be experienced in prayer, in forgiveness, in the Word, the Sacraments, the community of the Church and all that we do. 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.**

**Prayer response...**



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**OFFERTORY**

**Emily Stifter**

## *"We Give Thee but Thine Own"*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "We Give Thee but Thine Own". It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first five measures of the melody, with lyrics: "We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be; all that we have is". The second staff starts at measure 6 and contains the final three measures, with lyrics: "thine a - lone a trust, O Lord, from thee." The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes.

### **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Faithful God, we give our gifts in love and thanksgiving for all that we have been given. Help us give with hearts and minds open to the possibilities of what we can do to heal the brokenness of our world. Let our love travel where we do not, making pathways of peace where there are none, through Christ our Lord. 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: He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, he was always the guest. At the meal tables of the wealthy, where he pled the cause of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest. But here at this table he is the host.

Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to be follow him must first be fed by him. This is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

## *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 to be sung during the distribution of the elements:*

#### *"I Come With Joy"*

*I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,  
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,  
In love laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,  
In Christ's communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,  
And strangers now are friends.*

*Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,  
And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray,  
And live the way we pray.*

*"They'll Know We Are Christians"*

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:*

**Refrain:** *And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: Refrain*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: Refrain*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: Refrain*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**All:** We thank you, God, that through this bread and this cup, through Word and sacrament you have given us Christ Jesus, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*HYMN

*"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior"*

#551

\*COMMISSIONING

Go forth from this place renewed, ever hopeful to listen and respond to the voice of God. 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>	<i>Carol Merriman</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>	<i>Kathy Wochomurka</i>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<i>Gloria Gardner, Dan Herum, Evelyn Purdy, Kathy &amp; Beth Rausch</i>
<b>Welcomers:</b>	<i>Ruth Anne White</i>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<i>Kaye Anderson</i>
<b>Organist:</b>	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
<b>Rover:</b>	<i>Lu Lueck</i>
<b>Trustee:</b>	<i>Dan Meier</i>
<b>Counters:</b>	<i>Roz Ostendorf, Bob Ferguson</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., July 1	9:30 am - Worship Service
	10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast
Mon., July 2	5:00 pm - Among Friends Board Meeting
	7:45 pm - Softball Game at Hoffman Park
Tues., July 3	9:00 am - Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm - Among Friends
Wed., July 4	- Independence Day – Church Office Closed
	9:00 pm - Worship Service on Channel 16
Thurs., July 5	9:00 am - Yoga
	12:00 pm - Worship Service on Channel 16
Sun., July 8	9:30 am - Worship Service
	10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast

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

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Audrey Johnson (mother of Linn Lawrence), 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), Ginny Hilden, John (husband of Melanie Viney Tevik), Terry (one of the volunteer site supervisors at Back Bay Mission), Peg Thompson, Roger Becker (nephew of Sonny Miner), Barb (sister of Sue Simonet), Mary Morse (Dan Rude's sister)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For Emily Stifter as she shares her musical gifts with us this Sunday
- For those who keep our church gardens beautiful (and you could join them!), thank you for bringing us joy!
- For those enjoying the church softball season
- For the Among Friends Respite Program and those it serves
- For those organizing the dinner at the Simpson Shelter in Minneapolis on July 12
- For those arranging the Music at First Church concert on Wednesday, July 11
- For a break from busy church schedules

Prayers for our world:

- For the gift of this nation, that we may grow into a 'more perfect union' as we celebrate Independence Day
- For those getting ready for River Falls Days (got your blanket ready for 2<sup>nd</sup> Street yet?)
- For those who are moving, that it may go smoothly and decluttering is healing
- For those whom family life is difficult, that they may find the strength and courage to love anyway
- For those struggling with depression and mental health issues, that they may find hope
- For those who are traveling that they may safely return home
- 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 Norma and Roger Veith who celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this Sunday
- For the Rev. Dick Hoblin (former pastor here) celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 4 – send him a card!
- For health restored – especially to Avis Thompson, sister of Alice Hanson
- For the return of the church softball season (there is room for you!)
- For Jeff Hoffman who records our worship services each week
- For the gift of farmers markets
- For the ability to plant flowers, gardens and watch them grow
- For Missy Luedtke our church secretary who keeps our church ministry organized and flowing smoothly
- For Dave Mountain who cleans, organizes and keeps track of our church building
- For those who are pregnant that God may watch over them and keep them healthy

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Jean Glasbrenner, sister of John Hanson, sister in law of Alice Hanson
- For the family of Janice Swanson who died unexpectedly recently
- For Heidi (mother of our asylum family) whose family members (father, brother and sister) died in the recent unexpected volcanic eruption in Guatemala
- For those who are in mourning including the Tomlinson and Grisar 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: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written,

“The one who had much did not have too much,  
and the one who had little did not have too little.”

**GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 5:21-43**

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.