

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

July 8, 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**

JULY 8, 2018

9:30 AM

“SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST”

“The central task of ministry is the formation of a community with an alternative, liberated imagination that has the courage and the freedom to *act* in a different vision and a different perception of reality.”

~Walter Brueggemann

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: Blessed be the name of God this day and all our days.

P: **Blessed be the name of God from this time on and forevermore.**

L: From the rising of the sun till its setting the name of God is to be praised.

P: **On warm summer days and star-filled summer nights, we praise you
God!**

L: It is good to give God thanks, to declare God's steadfast love every day of
our lives.

All: **With joyful hearts, God, we bring our worship to you! Amen.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Ever-present God, even in the quiet moments of our lives we feel the turbulence of our world. We wonder where you are, why you don't fix things, when you will restore peace of heart and spirit and mind. Forgive us, God, when we give up on you. Help us be of great courage and faithfulness, help us be your presence in this world, and forgive us, we pray, when we are not. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Even through the fog of our own lives, even though our eyes and ears and hearts don't want to see or hear Jesus, God persistently calls us to do so and persistently forgives us when we don't.

P: God simply does not let us go. God embraces us with love in spite of our wandering ways. God picks us up and moves us forward, in spite of ourselves.

L: God forgives. Simple as that. God forgives.

P: Thanks be to God! God is love. God makes us a new people.

L: May God bless us and keep us always!

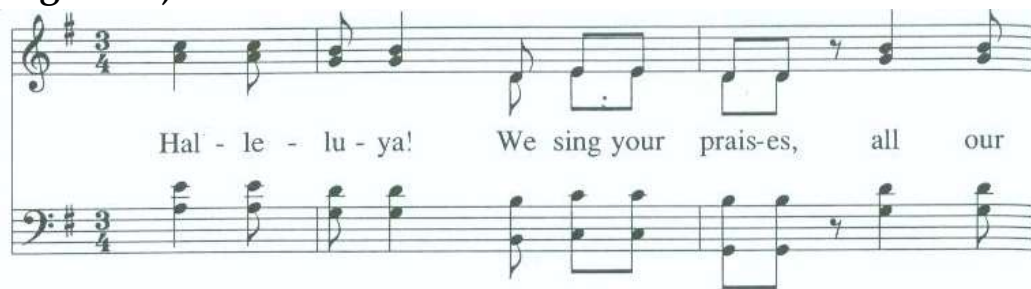
P: Thanks be to God!

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 (Sung twice)



Hal - le - lu - ya! We sing your prais-es, all our



hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - ya! We sing your




prais-es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 2:1-5

PSALM 48:9-14 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

Response



We pon-der your stead-fast love, O God.

Antiphon: Martie McMane, 1994

L: We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

P: **Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with victory.**

L: Let Mount Zion be glad, let the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgments.

P: **Walk about Zion, go all around it, count its towers, consider well its ramparts;**

L: Go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever.

P: He will be our guide forever. *R*

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 6:1-13

SERMON

Rev. Dave Ostendorf

*HYMN

"The Summons"

1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but
3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but

call your name? Will you go where you don't
call your name? Will you care for cruel and
call your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
call your name? Will you quell the fear in -
call my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know And nev - er be the same? Will you
kind And nev - er be the same? Will you
free And nev - er be the same? Will you
side And nev - er be the same? Will you
you And nev - er be the same. In your

let my love be shown, Will you let my
risk the hos - tile stare Should your life at -
kiss the lep - er clean, And do such as
use the faith you've found To re - shape the
com - pa - ny I'll go Where your love and

name be known, Will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, And ad - mit to what I
world a - round, Through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown In you and you in me?
pray'r In you and you in me?
mean In you and you in me?
sound In you and you in me?
grow In you and you in me.

***STATEMENT OF FAITH (taken from the New Zealand Church)**

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now.

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and hear; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you. 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.

MISSION MOMENT

School Supply Event

OFFERTORY

Roman Klink

"With Our Voices We'll Tell"



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



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



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

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, all good gifts around us have come from you. You have given us life, and new life in Christ. You have given us one another, in all our differences, yet bound in this community of love. May our gifts on this day, given generously to you to build up your realm of joy and of love, be blessed. Amen.

*HYMN

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

#393

*COMMISSIONING

Loving, engaging God bless us on our way this day and be beside us all week. Open our hearts to those with whom we differ. Guide us with open hearts – open to your powerful word and open to loving and living together. Let us be stirred and guided by the way of Jesus the Christ, in whose name we gather and in whose name we depart. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Steve Koecher</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Christian Education Committee</i>
Ushers:	<i>Kathy & Beth Rausch, Peter Rayne, Lee Lueck</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Cheryl & Troy Zakrzewski</i>
Nursery:	<i>Kaye Anderson</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Rover:	<i>Norma Revels</i>
Trustee:	<i>Matt Herum</i>
Counters:	<i>Diane Welsh, Janice Healy</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>

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 those who share their musical gifts with us each Sunday
- For those working to organize the School Supply Give Away
- 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 those getting ready for River Falls Days (got your blanket ready for 2nd Street yet?)
- For those who are moving, that it may go smoothly and decluttering is healing
- For those who are caring for aging parents
- 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 the Rev. Dick Hoblin (former pastor here) celebrating his 90th birthday on July 4 – send him a card!
- For those who do our church laundry each week
- For the gift of fresh flowers in gardens
- For nightly walks around the neighborhood
- For Missy Luedtke our church secretary who keeps our church ministry organized and flowing smoothly
- 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.

NOTES

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ezekiel 2:1-5

He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 6:1-13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.