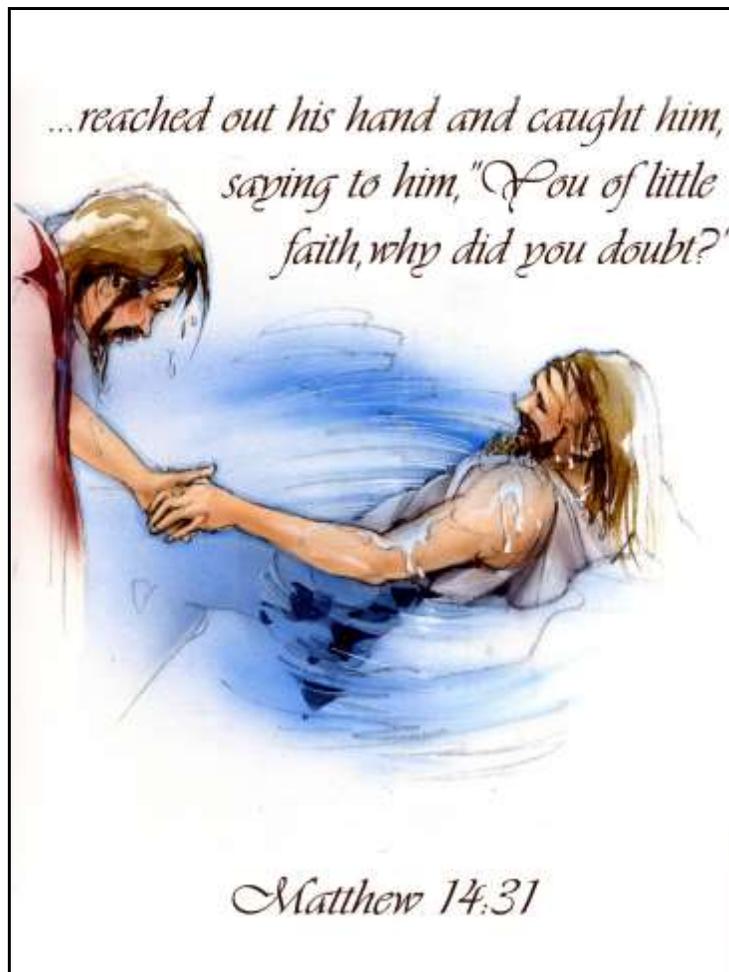


*First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
River Falls, Wisconsin*

*August 13, 2017*



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

**AUGUST 13, 2017**

**9:30 AM**

*“TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST”*

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*“Miracles happen every day, change your perception of what a miracle is  
and you'll see them all around you.”  
~Jon Bon Jovi*

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:** O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;

**P:** **Make known God's deeds among the peoples.**

**L:** Sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works.

**P:** **Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord  
rejoice!**

**L:** Let us remember the wonderful works of God.

**P:** **Rejoice, people of God!**

**All:** **Come and worship the God who will lead us into life!**

**\*HYMN**

*"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"*

*He's got the whole world in His hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands*

*He's got the wind and the rain in His hands  
He's got the wind and the rain in His hands  
He's got the wind and the rain in His hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands*

*He's got the whole world in His hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands*

*He's got the little bitty baby in His hands  
He's got the little bitty baby in His hands  
He's got the little bitty baby in His hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands*

*He's got you and me, brother, in His hands  
He's got you and me, brother, in His hands  
He's got you and me, brother, in his hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Most Holy God, we come before you in humility, seeking your forgiveness and guidance. We know that we have not lived by your teachings. The ways of the world continue to attract us, spellbind us, grip us. We wish it were not so. We pray it would not be so. Grant us forgiveness, and grant us courage and strength to be able to follow the ways of Jesus. Lead us on the path of righteousness and wholeness, of generosity and love, of openness and kindness. We are bold to pray in Jesus' name. Amen

## \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: God's love is so abundant that it embraces us even when we do not know it. God can indeed make us new!

P: **Thanks be to God!!**

L: God forgives us and leads us forward even when we want to stand still.

P: **Thanks be to God!!**

L: God gives us strength to live anew, and to build a new world with God's peoples.

P: **Thanks be to the God of life and love and hope!**

All: Amen.

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

## \*GLORIA

### *"Alleluia! Give the Glory"*

The musical score is written in 12/8 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a 'Cupo 3r' marking and contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!'. The second staff continues with 'lu - ia!' and 'Give the glo - ry and the'. The third staff contains 'hon - or to the Lord! Al - le -'. The fourth staff is marked 'Final' and contains 'glo - ry and the hon - or to the Lord! Fine'. Chord symbols are provided above the notes for each staff.

Chord symbols for the first staff:  $(C/D)$   $E\flat/F$ ,  $(G)$   $B\flat$ ,  $(Bm7)$   $Dm7$ ,  $(C)$   $E\flat$ ,  $(Cm)$   $E\flat m$

Chord symbols for the second staff:  $(G)$   $B\flat$ ,  $(Bm7)$   $Dm7$ ,  $(C)$   $E\flat$ ,  $(Cm)$   $E\flat m$ ,  $(G/D)$   $B\flat/F$ ,  $(Em7)$   $Gm7$

Chord symbols for the third staff:  $(A7)$   $C7$ ,  $(D)$   $F$ ,  $(A7)$   $C7$ ,  $(D)$   $F$ ,  $(D7)$   $F7$ ,  $(C/D)$   $E\flat/F$

Chord symbols for the fourth staff:  $(G/D)$   $B\flat/F$ ,  $(Em7)$   $Gm7$ ,  $(A7)$   $C7$ ,  $(C/D)$   $E\flat/F$ ,  $(G)$   $B\flat$ ,  $(C/G)$   $E\flat/B\flat$ ,  $(G)$   $B\flat$

PSALM 85:8-13 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

Response Antiphon: Carolyn Jennings, 1994

Eb
Bb/D
Cm
Gm/Bb
Abadd6
Ab
Eb

*Unison*

Show us your stead-fast love, O God, and grant us your sal - va - tion.

- L: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
- P: **Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.** ℣
- L: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- P: **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.**
- L: The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- P: **Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.** ℣

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 14:22-33

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

\*HYMN

*"Lead Me, Guide Me"*

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you

lead me, I can-not stray. Lord, let me walk each

day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Verses

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to  
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, Be my  
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the  
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting  
blind with - out thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways

dark-ness thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.  
all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.  
let me thy ser-vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

D.C.

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH - 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.**

**OFFERTORY**

**Colin Cosgrove, Andy Myers, Emily Stifter**

*(As we offer our gifts today, ask yourself the question: "How has God gifted me today?")*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Loving God, we lift our thanks to you for granting us safe journeys across rolling waters. We thank you for the work of this community of faith, and for providing us the opportunity to share these gifts of our work and our love, so that its work may continue and grow. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*"Shall We Gather at the River"*

**#597**

## \*COMMISSIONING

Go into the world in peace and with courage. Get out of the boat to walk with Jesus. Be of great faith and wondrous vision, that God's world might continue to arise in our midst. Build up the people, build up a world of love and kindness, of peace and justice, and be strong – ever so strong – as God walks strongly with us. **Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

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

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Ministers:</b>              | <i>The Whole Church</i>                          |
| <b>Liturgist:</b>              | <i>Rebecca Ferguson</i>                          |
| <b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>      | <i>JoAnn Mathews, Bill &amp; Jennie Sperling</i> |
| <b>Ushers:</b>                 | <i>Suzanne Hagen, Dan Herum, Kathy Rausch</i>    |
| <b>Welcomers:</b>              | <i>Carole Mottaz, Kaye Anderson</i>              |
| <b>Nursery:</b>                | <i>Nan Stifter</i>                               |
| <b>Organist:</b>               | <i>Judith Permann</i>                            |
| <b>Rover:</b>                  | <i>Dale &amp; Sheila Olson</i>                   |
| <b>Trustee:</b>                | <i>Scott Elsesser</i>                            |
| <b>Counters:</b>               | <i>Kris Roen, Wendy Hill</i>                     |
| <b>Music Coordinator:</b>      | <i>Marsha Pearson</i>                            |
| <b>Choir Director:</b>         | <i>Scott Perau</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>                          |

*Altar table flowers are given in celebration of  
Bill and Jennie Sperling's 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*

**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., Aug 13   | 9:30 am - Worship Service                |
|                | 10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship             |
|                | 11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast                |
| Mon., Aug 14   | 6:30 pm - Softball Game at Hoffman Park  |
| Tues., Aug 15  | 9:00 am - Yoga                           |
|                | 6:30 pm - Boards and Committees Meetings |
|                | 7:30 pm - Church Council Meeting         |
| Wed., Aug 16   | 9:00 pm - Worship Service on Channel 16  |
| Thurs., Aug 17 | 9:00 am - Yoga                           |
|                | - Larson/Peck Wedding Rehearsal          |
| Sat., Aug 19   | 3:00 pm - Larson/Peck Wedding            |
| Sun., Aug 20   | 9:30 am - Worship Service                |
|                | 10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship             |
|                | 11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast                |
| Mon., Aug 21   | 6:30 pm - Softball Game at Hoffman Park  |
| Tues., Aug 22  | 9:00 am - Yoga                           |
| Wed., Aug 23   | 9:00 pm - Worship Service on Channel 16  |
| Thurs., Aug 24 | 9:00 am - Yoga                           |
| Fri., Aug 25   | - Newsletter Deadline                    |
| Sun., Aug 27   | 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:

- Marlee (relative of Diane Welsh), Wayne Petersen, Audrey Johnson (mother of Linn Lawrence), Dan (son-in-law of the Prochnows), Gus de Souza, Avis Thompson (Alice Hanson's sister), Roy Zeman

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For Bob Gustafson and his crew who ran the School Supply Give Away last week
- For those who led Vacation Bible School recently
- For our Committees and Council who will meet this coming Tuesday after their summer break
- For those helping with the Youth Peach Fundraiser
- For all those deployed in the military, especially Katie Morsch
- For those preparing for the opening of Among Friends, an adult respite care program this coming fall
- For the Rev. Del Permann as he begins (another) short-term pastorate at Roberts UCC

Prayers for our world:

- For those dealing with cancer
- For those caring for young children
- For single parents
- For our politicians that they may come together and address current issues
- For those who are struggling with addictions

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For Bill and Jennie Sperling celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary August 17<sup>th</sup>
- For Megan Larson and Lucas Peck who will be married on August 19<sup>th</sup>
- For Melanie Viney and John Tevic who were recently married
- For Tim Bylander who will share his faith story in the Tell Me a Story moment in worship on Sunday, Aug 20
- For those who serve as coffee fellowship hosts and our trustee who open the building each Sunday
- For those who provide flowers for the altar table each week

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Cynthia McLagan who died this past week
- For the family of Susie, cousin of Midge Kees
- For those in mourning, especially the Volkmann, Smith and Miller 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: Romans 10:10-15**

For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

**GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 14:22-33**

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."