

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

March 7, 2021

"Third Sunday in Lent"

10:00 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME

SONG

"Rain Down"

Refrain: *Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.*

*Faithful and true is the word of our God. All of God's works are so worthy of trust.
God's mercy falls on the just and the right; full of God's love is the earth. Refrain*

*God of creation, we long for your truth; you are the water of life for our thirst. Grant
that your love and your peace touch our hearts, all of our hope lies in you. Refrain*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

SCRIPTURE READING

John 2:13-22

HOMILY

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG

"We Are Called"

*Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God! Refrain*

Refrain: *We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another; to walk humbly with God!*

*Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love! Refrain*

***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.
and power be unto 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.

L: ...Lord in your mercy

P: Hear our prayer.

COMMUNION

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**

Great Thanksgiving

L: ...the mystery of faith

P: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

"Taste and See"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, most Gracious God, that you have given us your love in this holy gospel feast and have refreshed us by your Holy Spirit. Now strengthen us in joyful service to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG

"Bind Us Together"

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

There is only one God, there is only one King;

There is only one body, that is why we sing.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Gary (Ann Gustafson's brother in law), Bernice Larson, Megan (daughter of Steve and Janice Healy), Teddi (friend of Janice Healy), Nancy Hove (Pierce County Sheriff diagnosed with brain cancer), Jason Kuhl (cousin of Rose Rude), Darren (friends of Trautmillers), Peg Thompson, Miles Voster (friend of Grisars), Dorothy Shavers (Rene Bylander's mother), Roger Hirstein, David Anderson, Mark Otto, LaVon (sister of Darlene Sumption), Barb Stephens

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For pastors, musicians and our web team leading the resumption of in-person Sunday worship and our Wednesday Night online Lenten worship services
- For the Memorial Garden group as they meet to shape the future home of our church saints in our beautiful front garden
- For Katy Kapaun, our Wednesday Night Cook, Evelyn Purdy and Susan Walden who help in the kitchen, and our interns and JaNae Westrich who bring family meals to cars each Wednesday during Lent
- For all the 'angels' who give of their time, talent and treasure to enable our church community to reach out to others
- For our church staff as we paint the first floor office, hallways and fellowship hall which involves a lot of moving and shuffling of things
- For the Mission Ed Committee who sent thank you notes with a small 'Chamber Check' to each of the vaccinators in our community as a way of honoring their service
- For those who continue to support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings and gifts--you are all a blessing

Prayers for our World:

- As we approach the one year mark of the pandemic, let us pause and remember those who have died, those who survived, how life has changed and the ways God has led us through it all
- For Middle and High School students and families as they shift to four day a week classes
- For those who have been vaccinated (hallelujah!), for those who are anxiously awaiting their turn
- For peace and justice in the Twin Cities as the trial for Derek Chauvin begins
- For our fractured nation that we may find ways to come together
- For all of us as the pandemic drags on and our energy wanes

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For the RF Wildcat Basketball team as they head to the state tournament thanks to a last minute shot by our own church intern Zac Johnson
- For Dahn Carrison who celebrated his 80th birthday on Feb 27
- For Lu Lueck and Linn Lawrence who painted the church nursery after Tim Bylander re-sheet rocked it from our summer flood—bless you all for your efforts!
- For the Rev. Del Permann, our 'retired' previous pastor, who has just taken a two-year assignment as pastor of Mason UMC in Tacoma, Washington, that he may 'run and not be weary'
- For the over 53 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God
- For Diane Welsh who will deliver this month's shut-in bags to seniors and special church friends with a special St. Patrick's Day theme!
- For Brad Richter who has graciously and patiently been reworking our church webpage which went live on March 1— you are an angel of blessing
- For the gift of COVID vaccines and the hope that this will all end sooner rather than later

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For Polly Wymer who died peacefully at home this past week and whose funeral is Saturday, March 6, that she may rest in God's strong care after so many years of serving others
- For the family of Stafford Williams, brother of Bradley Williams, who died recently
- For Phyllis Huber who died recently at her group home in Ellsworth. For many years Phyllis was with us in worship and will be remembered for her wonderful sense of humor and achievements in Special Olympics. Funeral services will be in Ellsworth this summer. May she rest in God's strong care
- For those in mourning, including the Filkins, Ostendorf/Schichtel, Reilly, Zeman and Greub families, as well as all those who have died from Covid-19

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

SCRIPTURE 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.

Worship participants for this week:

Audio/Visual: Jeff Hoffman, Andy Myers

Music: Jamie Mills, Marsha Pearson, David Reilly

Preacher: Rev. Chris Myers

Treasurer's Report

	Week of <u>Feb 28, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 9,065	\$ 111,464
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 83,358

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

Lent 2021 Themes: Teach Us To Pray

February 17 (Ash Wednesday) - **Lord's Prayer** from Matthew 6:5-15

February 24 - **Withdraw:** Luke 5:16 *He would withdraw to a deserted place to pray*

March 3 - **Embody:** Daniel 6:10 *He got down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God*

March 10 - **Silence:** Habb 2:20 *The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence*

March 17 - **Creation:** Ps 148:3-4 *Praise God sun and moon, praise God shining stars,
praise God highest heavens!*

March 24 - **Imagine:** Is 43:19 *I am about to do a new thing, now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?*