

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

April 11, 2021

*"Second Sunday After Easter"*

10:00 am

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**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**SONG** ***"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"***

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

*Refrain: Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your  
love; And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise. Without a doubt we'll know that we  
have been revived when we shall leave this place.*

*There are blessings you cannot receive till you know that Spirit's fullness and believe;  
You're the one to profit when you say, "I am going to stay with Jesus all the way." Refrain*

**OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

With great joy and thanksgiving we *gather together* to worship God! We give God thanks for the gift of life given through the living Christ. We pray God's presence with us this morning, that God might bring stillness to our wandering minds and spirits. With Easter praise let us worship! Amen.

**A PSALM ON THE BLESSEDNESS OF UNITY: Psalm 133**

L: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

P: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

L: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

P: For there the Lord ordained the Lord's blessing, life forevermore.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Acts 4:32-35**

**HOMILY**

**Rev. Dave Ostendorf**

**SONG** ***"Filled With the Spirit's Power"***

*Filled with the Spirit's power, all hearts as one, the infant church confessed Christ's  
victory won. O Holy Spirit, in the church today no less your unifying power display.*

*Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire, that unity may be our great desire. Give joy  
and peace; give faith to know your call, and readiness in each to work for all.*

*Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace in your strong care all those of every race. Like  
wind and fire with life among us move, till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.*

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH – United Church of Canada**

**L:** We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**P:** **We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

**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.**

**SONG**

***"There Are Many Ways of Sharing"***

*There are many ways of sharing, But God's Spirit gives each one.  
There are different ways of caring; It's one Lord whose work is done.  
God, whose gifts are overflowing, May we hear you when you call;  
Keep us serving, keep us growing, For the common good of all.*

*We've been baptized in the waters! We've been given work to do.  
When you call your sons and daughters, You give gifts for serving you.  
God, we join in celebration Of the talents you impart.  
Bless each baptized one's vocation; Give each one a servant's heart.*

*All are blest by gifts you give us; Some are set apart to lead.  
Give us Jesus' love within us As we care for those in need.  
Give us faith to make decisions; Give us joy to share your Word.  
Give us unity and vision As we serve your church and world.*

**BLESSING**

**Go now! Go into the world in peace, with hearts and minds and spirits open to the creative power of the Holy Spirit through the Christ who stood up against the forces of death. Live in the unity of the Spirit that gives energy and creativity and boundless possibilities even in the face of great challenges. The world is open before us, friends!! Give it the whirl of new life!! **Amen.****

**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, Marc Otto, Jim, Barbara Stephens

**Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:**

- For a joyous Holy Week and Easter!
- For committees and church council meeting on April 20, that they may have the mind of Christ
- For the Northwest Association as it gathers for their Annual Meeting on April 17 with our own Pastor Dave as one of its keynote speakers (it is via Zoom so you too can join – ask him for the link)
- For Katy Kapaun, our Wednesday Night Cook, Evelyn Purdy and Susan Walden who help in the kitchen, and our interns and JaNae Westrich who work together to make our Wednesday Family Meals a success
- For our Youth Minister JaNae Westrich and her husband Adam (pastor at St. Paul's UCC in Ellsworth) who have accepted a call at First UCC in Green Bay and will be moving there in May. We are planning on a farewell celebration for JaNae on Sunday, April 25th. Please pray for strength and guidance for them during this transition and for our church as we begin the search for a new Youth Minister
- 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:**

- For those trying to be vaccinated and those who already have, that we may continue to act safely
- For justice, peace and healing as the trial for Derek Chauvin continues, that God's power of resurrection may be at work
- For Asians living in fear, may the hate abate and allies appear
- For those worried about the future, may they turn their worries into prayer
- For high school seniors contemplating college choices and plans, may they receive God's guidance
- For those who have been vaccinated (hallelujah!), for those who are anxiously awaiting their turn
- For our fractured nation, that we may find ways to come together and solve our real problems

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For the gift of Easter and signs of new life in our world, that we may we follow God's lead
- For Nate Lawrence who soon graduates from the ROTC Honor Society program at SDSU
- For the birth of William Dystra, new great grandchild of Mary and Duane Church
- For JoAnne Friedell who retired this month after 33 years of social work in Rusk and St Croix counties—may you rest from your labors!
- For the return of in-person confirmation classes in April
- For the over 95 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God
- For Carole Mottaz who is delivering the Easter Shut In Bags to our seniors and special friends
- For Brad Richter who has graciously and patiently been reworking our church webpage which went live on March 1 and is now working on a mobile phone app—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 the family of Robert, brother in law of Yvonne Benson, who died this past week that he may rest in God's strong care
- For those in mourning, including the Wymer, Williams, Huber, Filkins, 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: Acts 4:32-35**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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*Worship participants for this week:*

*Audio/Visual: Jeff Hoffman, Andy Myers*

*Music: Jamie Mills, Marsha Pearson, David Reilly*

*Preacher: Rev. Dave Ostendorf*

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**Treasurer's Report**

	Week of	
	<u>Apr 4, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 13,315	\$ 172,294
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 129,668

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

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.