

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

"Confirmation Sunday"

"Fifth Sunday of Easter"

May 2, 2021

10:00 am

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are God's work of art,

P: Each one a precious gem, a marvelous tapestry, a potter's delight.

L: We are God's handiwork, reborn in Christ Jesus to be a blessing,

P: Every one of us, woven together in love, shaped with compassion, painted with incredible beauty.

L: We are God's creation,

P: All of us, touched by grace, saved by faith and beckoned to praise.

L: We are God's people, assembled for worship, attentive to the voice of the Living God.

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

SONG

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'm gonna live so God can use me any time and any where.

I'm gonna live so God can use me any time and any where.

2. I'm gonna work... 3. I'm gonna pray...

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Creative God, **we praise you for your acts of love and grace in our world. As we gather today, let us hear your message of power through the witness of Jesus Christ as he prepared his disciples for his departure. He gave them words of encouragement and promise about living in your love, and through that love being witnesses to the whole world. May your life giving love be with us this day, O God. Open our hearts and minds to receive your Word. Amen.**

PSALM 22:25-31

L: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who trust him.

P: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

P: For dominion belongs to the LORD, and God rules over the nations.

L: To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

P: Posterity will serve God; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

“You Are Mine”

I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.

You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here.

I am the word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.

I will call your name, embracing all your pain, stand up, now walk, and live!

Refrain: *Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.*

Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

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 RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Welcome

Questions of the Candidates

Prayer

Act of Confirmation

Prayer of Confirmation

Welcome

L: Let us, the people of First Congregational United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

P: **We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Presentation of Crosses

**Murphy Sylvester Beatty, Emma Elizabeth Cernohous, Sawyer Joshua Cudd,
Quincy William Johnson, Ellie Patricia Krueger, Jenna Marie Lawrence,
Ryan Russell Luedtke, Connor Michael Rude, Estelle Rose Theisen,
Gabrielle Jane VanDell, Cheyenne Josephine Wilson**

The crosses presented to our Confirmands were hand-made by Bob Johnson, a church member.

THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

Come Holy and Life Giving God, ...**abide in us.**

...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.

THE COMMUNION

All Christians, regardless of denomination, tradition or age are welcome at the table of our Lord.

Invitation to the Supper

L: Come to this sacred table, not because you must but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness, you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table then, sisters and brothers, just as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and for me, that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

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 God thanks and praise.**

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...

The Words of Institution

L: 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

Music during the distribution of the elements:

"Bread for the Journey"

"One Bread, One Body"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: **We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SONG

“They’ll Know We Are Christian”

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

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

MAY 2, 2021

(B)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Worship participants for this week:
Audio/Visual: Jeff Hoffman, Andy Myers
Music: Marsha Pearson, David Reilly
Preacher: Rev. Chris Myers
Celebrant: Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers
Liturgists: Emma Cernohous, Sawyer Cudd, Connor Rude

Treasurer’s Report

	<u>Apr 25, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,305	\$ 193,828
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 157,454

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.