

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

**October 17, 2021**



***Come and Be Fed  
Fed by Generosity***

***Children's Sabbath***

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

October 17, 2021

*Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*

10:00 am

Gathering

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Come, gather together and let us give God praise.

**P: Let us sing of God's love and God's amazing grace.**

L: May we give God praise for God's forgiveness and mercy.

**P: Let us sing of God's mercy and compassion.**

L: May we give God praise for all God's wonderful acts to all the earth's people.

**P: Let us sing our praise to God and worship God with our hearts and minds.**

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

**\*HYMN**

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

*Congregation join on refrain:*

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

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

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious Creator, **you have given us so much, but too often we take those gifts for granted, or as something to which we are entitled. You call us to share your gifts with the world around us, but we are worried that there may not be enough, and our worrying gets in the way of our sharing. For the times when we mistreat and misuse your gifts, for the times we assume that we get what we have by ourselves, forgive us and lead us back to the path of wisdom. Amen.**

L: God is a gracious giver. God is gracious in forgiveness.

**P: And God calls us to live a new life full of thanks and joy today.**

L: In Christ we are forgiven.

**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**

***"May God Grant You a Blessing"***

***May God grant you a blessing, may God grant you a blessing,***

***May God grant you a blessing evermore.***

## Hearing the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

John 12:20-26

PSALM 112:1-10

**R**                    *Happy are they who dwell in your house, O Lord,  
who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

L: Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments.

**P: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

L: Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

**P: They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

L: It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

**P: For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.**

L: They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.

**P: Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

L: They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

**P: The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing. R**

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES AND BIBLE STORY CARDS

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG OF BLESSING

*He's got the whole world in his hands, He's got the whole wide world in his hands,  
He's got the whole world in his hands, He's got the whole world in his hands.*

## Celebrating the Meal

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

### *The Invitation to the Meal*

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**P: And also with you.**

L: This is the table of the Lord. Jesus invites everyone who loves him to come and share in this joyful feast.

Child: Why have we come here today?

**P: We are here because Jesus invited us. When Jesus walked the earth he often ate with friends and people others ignored.**

Child: What happened on the night before Jesus died?

**P: As darkness fell, Jesus ate at a table with his disciples. They were in an upstairs room in Jerusalem at the time of the Passover celebration.**

Child: What did Jesus say? What did he do?

**P: Jesus knew his life was coming to an end and he prepared his disciples. He gave them bread and invited them to drink from a cup. He said to do this to remember him. The disciples didn't understand.**

Child: Why do we do this too?

**P: Today we are Jesus' disciples. Now we eat bread and drink from the cup. When we do, Jesus becomes part of us just as we are part of him.**

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.**

### ***The Words of Institution***

L: O God, we thank you for your kindness to us and your goodness to all people. In your son, Jesus, you come near to us. We hear your call for justice, peace, and compassion to reign over the whole creation. Through your Holy Spirit, bless us and these gifts of bread and wine, and make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. We pray that by eating and drinking this holy food, we will be joined together, fed and strengthened to live according to your way.

**P: Amen.**

L: Come, for all things are ready.

### ***Celebration of the Meal***

*Hymns during the distribution of the elements:*

#### ***What a Friend We Have in Jesus***

#### ***Here I am, Lord***

*Congregation join on refrain:*

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.***

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All:** God of compassion, thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and the cup of blessing. Just as your love flowed out from Jesus the Christ to all those around him, let your love flow out to others through us. Even though we are broken, and despite our disbelief, we pray that your holy food will nourish us and bind us together as your people. We pray in the name of Jesus, the bringer of hope, light, peace, and joy. Amen.

**SONG** (Children preschool through grade 8 leave for Sunday School.)

*Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life;  
Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life.*

*Grace is flooding: grace is flooding, grace is flooding from the fountain of life.  
Grace is flooding: grace is flooding, grace is flooding from the fountain of life.*

## Proclaiming the Word

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Philippians 4:4-9**

**SERMON**

**Come and Be Fed by Generosity**

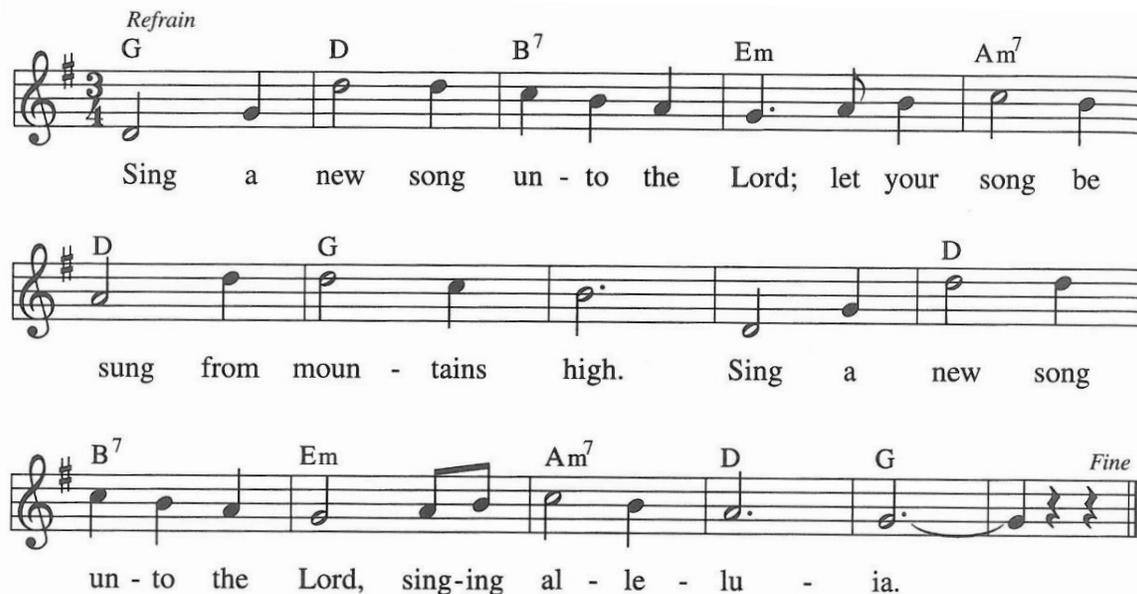
**Rev. Chris Myers**

**\*HYMN**

***Sing a New Song Unto the Lord***

*Congregation join on refrain:*

*Refrain*



Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be  
sung from moun - tains high. Sing a new song  
un - to the Lord, sing-ing al - le - lu - ia.

**\*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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Simple Gifts*

Jubilee Ringers

TELL ME A STORY

Lee Lueck

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

Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

...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.

**Sending**

\*HYMN

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

\*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Note about offering: During the pandemic we are not passing the offering plate. We thankfully receive your gifts, tithes and offerings in the offering plate on the back table. Your generosity is the engine that powers our church community. Thank you.*

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

<b>Liturgist:</b>	<i>Jean Smith</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>	<i>Kathy Rausch</i>
<b>Deacons:</b>	<i>Karen Lloyd, Peter and Natasha Rayne, Cindy Gandrud</i>
<b>Welcomers:</b>	<i>Dennis and Lynn Linder</i>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<i>Kahla Fuller</i>
<b>Organist:</b>	<i>Terry Mithun</i>
<b>Video Team:</b>	<i>Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter</i>
<b>Trustee:</b>	<i>Steve Pfeiffer</i>
<b>Counters:</b>	<i>Janice Healy, Diane Welsh</i>
<b>Music Coordinator &amp; Bell Director:</b>	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
<b>Choir Director:</b>	<i>Sarah Plum</i>
<b>Church Moderator:</b>	<i>Joel Larsen</i>
<b>Office Administrator:</b>	<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
<b>Youth Pastors:</b>	<i>Alex and Sarah Plum</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 by Suzanne Hagen in memory of Norris and Margaret Johnson.*

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

**Those who are ill or recovering:**

Peg Thompson, Roger Hirstein, Jim, Wendy MacDougall (wife of our Association Minister Rob), Edna (friend of the Danielsons and Petersons), Rosalie Harper (cousin on JoAnn Lentz), Carolyn Larrabee, Donna Moseman, Tom (friend of Barb Stephens), Joan Hyland, Charles Hoffman (father of Jeff Hoffman), Jean and Ted Hagberg (mom and brother of Traci), Peter Kwong, Megan and baby Nora

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

- For Lee Lueck who shares his faith story as part of the Tell Me A Story segment in worship
- For Andy Krueger and the crew gearing up for the annual Giving Thanks Meal on Sunday, November 14 (further details coming soon)
- For our Trustees planning the spruce up of our church grounds on Saturday, October 23, may many hands make light work
- For Glenn Kees and Tim Bylander who were at Moon Beach Camp for the fall work weekend this past weekend
- For Coffee Fellowship Hosts, welcomers and liturgists who help enhance our Sunday morning
- 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 our River Falls Marching Wildcats competing at the state tournament in Whitewater this weekend—Go Wildcats!
- For our stressed out world, may we find the peace of Christ and the joy of faith
- For the 13,000 Afghani refugees at Fort McCoy, Wi, that they may be strengthened in their journey
- For our troubled creation as climate change rears its ugly head, that we may collectively change our behavior
- For healthcare workers who are exhausted after the pandemic, may you be given God's strength
- For teachers, aides and administrators trying to do and balance so much

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For our church custodian Dave Mountain, and Building Supervisor, Tim Bylander, for safely looking over our building
- For our church mowing team—Joel Larsen, Ryan Luedtke, Larry Peterson and Mike Stifter—thanks for a great year!
- For a return of choir and bells, may they make beautiful music together
- For the nearly 212 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God

**For those grieving the loss of loved ones:**

- For the family of Paul Anderson who died peacefully at home this past week, that his wife Synneva and sons Raymond and Aaron may grieve with hope
- For Nancy Hines, sister of Diane Welsh, who died suddenly recently, that her family may be comforted
- For those mourning loved ones as we approach All Saints Sunday on October 31
- For the 700,000 Americans and over 4.6 million worldwide who have died of Covid, may they not have died in vain

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

**GOSPEL LESSON: John 12:20-26**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Philippians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Treasurer’s Report**

	<u>Oct 10, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,869	\$ 364,435
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 379,742

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

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.