

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

May 1, 2022



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

*Confirmation Sunday
Third Sunday of Easter*

May 1, 2022

10:00 am

Gathering

*Forgiveness says you are given another chance to make a new beginning.
- The Rev. Desmond Tutu, South African Bishop*

Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today! Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.

- The nursery is available for young children.
- Activity bags are available for children.
- Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.
- Please stand when noted by the *
- Congregation responses are in bold.
- Please stop at the welcome station for a gift.

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*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Listen. God is calling.

P: **What is God calling us to do?**

L: To be the church.

P: **What should the church do?**

L: Love. Serve. Forgive. Act. Bless. Welcome.

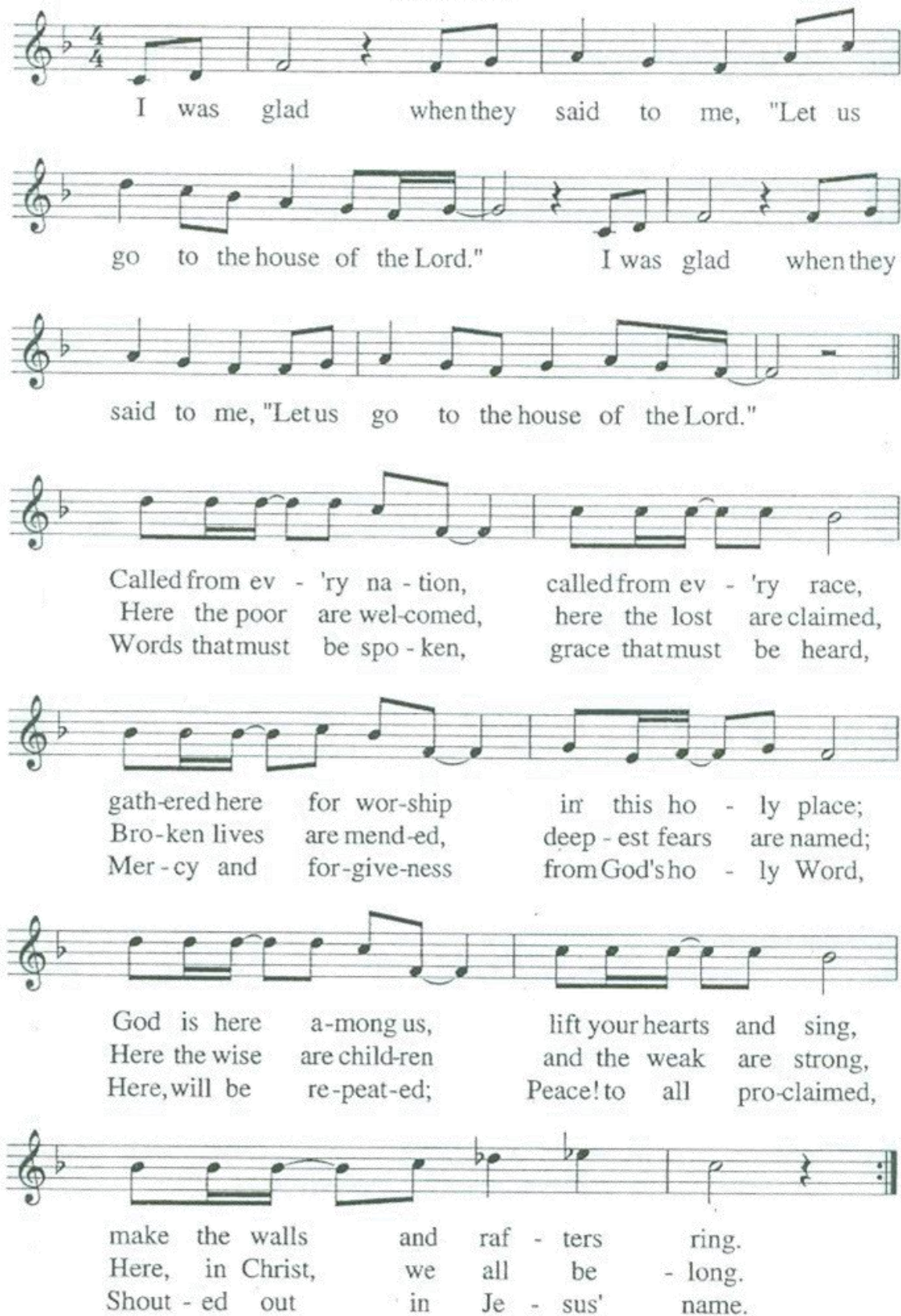
P: **How do we do this?**

L: By following in the steps of Jesus our Lord.

P: **So let us be the church today as we learn what it means to follow Jesus here and now.**

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

I Was Glad



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us
go to the house of the Lord." I was glad when they
said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Called from ev - 'ry na - tion, called from ev - 'ry race,
Here the poor are wel - comed, here the lost are claimed,
Words that must be spo - ken, grace that must be heard,

gath - ered here for wor - ship in this ho - ly place;
Bro - ken lives are mend - ed, deep - est fears are named;
Mer - cy and for - give - ness from God's ho - ly Word,

God is here a - mong us, lift your hearts and sing,
Here the wise are child - ren and the weak are strong,
Here, will be re - peat - ed; Peace! to all pro - claimed,

make the walls and raf - ters ring.
Here, in Christ, we all be - long.
Shout - ed out in Je - sus' name.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

- L: I lift my eyes unto the hills – from where does my help come?
P: **Forgive me, O God, when I believe my only help is in my own strength.**
L: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
P: **Forgive me, O God, when I believe that my only hope is in the quickness of my own mind.**
L: The Lord watches over you. The Lord is at your right hand.
P: **Forgive me, O God, when I believe that my future is in my hands alone.**
L: The Lord will keep you from all harm; God will watch over your life.
P: **Forgive me when I believe that I can live without your grace.**
All: **The Lord will watch over my coming and going both now and forevermore. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

- L: Hear these words:
P: **God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and swift to bless.**
L: Believe these words:
P: **In Christ we are forgiven and set free for new life here and now.**
L: Live these words:
P: **Let us leave our burdens behind and embrace God’s abundant life today. Amen.**
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 (Sung twice)** (#236)

*Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah, Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah
Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah, Hallelujah, Hal-le-lu-jah*

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 9:1-6

PSALM 30

- R** *Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!*
L: I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
P: **O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**
L: O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

- P:** Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.
- L:** For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.
- P:** Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. *R*
- L:** As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."
- P:** By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.
- L:** To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit?"
- P:** Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!"
- L:** You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
- P:** O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever. *R*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG OF BLESSING

*Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

(Please see insert)

Celebrating the Meal

(All Christians are welcome at the table of our Lord. The bread is gluten free and wine and grape juice are offered. Those choosing not to commune may receive a blessing from the servers.)

The Invitation to the Meal

- L:** Sisters and Brothers in Christ, this is the table where our Savior Jesus Christ wants to feed us on the Bread of Life. Let us feast on his grace that forgives us. Let us feast on his peace that calms us. Let us feast on his love that frees us. Come just as you are, and be fed by him.

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 our thanks and praise.

L: It is right and good always to give thanks, ...

The Words of Institution

L: We praise your name 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

Hymns during the distribution of the elements:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

Congregation join on refrain:

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give
thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, give praise to his Name.

Come to the Table of Grace

Congregation join on refrain:

1 Come to the ta-ble of grace. Come to the ta-ble of
grace. This is God's ta-ble; it's not yours or
mine. Come to the ta-ble of grace.

*Additional stanzas: 2. Peace, 3. Love, 4. Joy, 5. hope

Lord's Prayer

Unison

F C F C F Dm Bb C

1. Our Fa-ther, which art in heav-en,
 2. Done on earth as it is in heav-en,
 3. And for-give all our debts, hal-low-ed - a be thy
 4. Lead us not in - to temp-ta-tion,
 5. Thine is the king-dom, pow-er, and glo-ry,
 6. A - men, a - men, a - men,

Thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
 Give us this day our dai - ly bread,
 name. As we for - give our debt - ors,
 But de - liv - er us from e - vil,
 For - ev - er and ev - er,
 A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men,

hal - low - ed - a be thy name. *Fine*

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

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

Proclaiming the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

John 21:1-19

HOMILY

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

#173

***STATEMENT OF FAITH** – from the Iona Ecumenical Community in Scotland

L: Let us affirm our faith.

P: We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the One God, maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky. Born of Mary, faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah, Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed heaven on earth. Condemned by the religious, crucified by the state, He died but transformed even death and rose to life everlasting. He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit and sent them forth, east and west, north and south. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as brothers and sisters and to the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

With a backbeat

1. I'm gon-na live so God can use me

use me,) an - y time (yes an - y time) and an - y - where (yes an - y -

I'm gon-na live so God can use me where) (I'm gon-na live so)

an - y time (an - y time,) and an - y - where. (yes an - y - where.)

2. I'm gonna work...

3. I'm gonna pray...

4. I'm gonna sing...

*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. You can use the QR Code to give electronically. Your generosity is the engine that powers our church community. Thank you.

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Libby Larson</i>
Cantor:	<i>David Reilly</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Deacons</i>
Deacons:	<i>Peter Rayne, Karen Lloyd, Cindy Gandrud, Linn Lawrence, Traci Hagberg</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Dennis & Lynn Linder, Carter Sterba, Abby Brown, Erica Sippel</i>
Nursery:	<i>Kahla Fuller</i>
Video Team:	<i>Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter, Ryan Luedtke</i>
Trustee:	<i>Jeff Hoffman</i>
Counters:	<i>Dennis Linder, Marie Roe</i>
Music Coordinator & Bell Director:	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Sarah Plum</i>
Church Moderator:	<i>Joel Larsen</i>
Office Administrator:	<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
Youth Pastors:	<i>Alex and Sarah Plum</i>
Minister for Community:	<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
CE Minister:	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
Senior Pastor:	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

*Altar table flowers are given by Marie and Roland Roe
in memory of Louella DeLuca's birthday.*

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Apr 17, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,763	\$ 199,271
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 158,544

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.



Offering QR Code

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click the tab 'Give Online'

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Roger Hirstein, Rosalie Harper (cousin of JoAnn Lentz), Donna Moseman, David Lewis (friend of Jan Hansen), Deb Larson (Jen Meyer's mother), Zeke Wells, Margaret (friend of Dave Reilly), Dan Turner (father of Mike Danielson), Natasha Rayne, Neil (son of Yvonne Benson), Suzie May and Nick Simpson, Sydney and Gloria Johnson (Tanya Larsen's folks), Alex (grandson of Barb Stephens), Lana Tiede, Mallory and Olivia, Carolyn Larrabee, Joan Alexander

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For our deacons, pastors and musicians who led awesome Holy Week worship services, alleluia!
- For the Krueger clan, our youth and the 200 people fed at our breakfast on Easter Sunday, God bless you
- For our amazing Wednesday School volunteers - Christina Krueger, Jen and Erin Syverson, Conner Rude and Anna Anderson, who are there each week welcoming kids and helping out as needed—what a great year!
- For our Trustees who cleaned inside and outside the church building on Saturday, April 30, bless you for your efforts!
- For those who support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings, and gifts--you are all a blessing

Prayers for our World:

- For the family of Lily Peters, the 10 year old girl from Chippewa Falls who was killed last week, may they be comforted and may she rest in God's strong care
- For Peace UCC in Rochester whose building suffered a terrible fire on Easter Sunday night, may they rebuild
- For those recovering from the latest Covid wave, may they heal quickly
- For peace in Ukraine, may a better way forward be found
- For those helping refugees, especially for churches helping those fleeing in Ukraine
- For our divided nation, that we may work together to solve our real problems

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For those being confirmed into the faith and family of Jesus Christ today: Abby Brown, Alice Follstad, Libby Larson, Erica Sippel, Carter Sterba, may you grow in faith, service, and love
- For the gift of in-person prom at River Falls High School this weekend, may it be a fun time for all
- For the nearly 1000 people who attended the first Earth Fest this past Sunday at Glen Park, that it may stoke in each of us gratitude from God's gift of the good creation and an urgency to better care for it
- For our chancel choir whose singing season is now over, thank you for your beautiful music
- For the over \$12,000 given by church members to help refugees fleeing the Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference
- For Kaye Anderson who received one of 8 UWRF Chancellor's Awards this spring, we are proud of you!

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Jim Kuhn who died peacefully at home this past week surrounded by his family, may they be strengthened as they gather at Glen Park on Friday, May 20 to celebrate his life
- For the family of Judy Permann planning a Celebration of Life for Judy on June 18, may the Holy Spirit fill you with strength and gratitude
- For those mourning Jean Hagberg, Peg Thompson and Judie Henning may you not mourn alone
- For the 990,000 Americans and over 6.2 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 9:1-6

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

GOSPEL LESSON: John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

CONFIRMATION

MAY 1, 2022



*As often as you did it for one
of my least brothers, you did
it for me.*

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

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

L: Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These young people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study, they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

- L: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?
C: I do.
- L: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?
C: I do.
- L: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
C: I do.
- L: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?
C: I promise, with the help of God.
- L: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?
C: I promise, with the help of God.

PRAYER

Almighty God, who in baptism received these young people into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

L: Strengthen, O God, these your servants, with your heavenly grace that they may continue in your way forever; and daily increase in them your Holy Spirit, until you receive them at last in your eternal home.

A: Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

A: O Merciful God, we rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into the fullness of life. We give you thanks that these young people have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ. Amen.

ADDRESS

L: By your baptism, you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

WELCOME

L: Let us, the members 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.**

M: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of your church, First Congregational United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

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

2022 CONFIRMANDS

**Abigail Marie Brown
Alice Marie Follstad
Elizabeth Jade Larson
Erica Ruth Sippel
Carter Jeffery Sterba**

Favorite Scripture Texts of Confirmands

Abby – Isaiah 41:10	Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
Alice – Isaiah 41:10	Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
Libby – Luke 10:38-42	The Mary and Martha Story
Erica – Luke 6:27	But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.
Carter – Matthew 18:4	Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.