

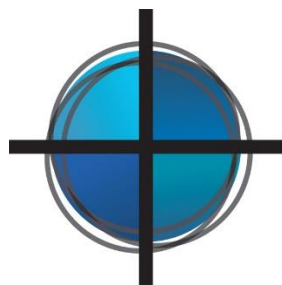
**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

September 25, 2022

Living the Prayer of Jesus:

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.



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UCC
RIVER FALLS

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

September 25, 2022

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am

Gathering

Truth is, I think, if God just gave us our daily bread, many of us would be angry. 'That's all you're going to give me? You're just going to give me enough to sustain me for today? What about tomorrow or next year or 10, 20, 30 years from now? I want to know that I'm set up.' And yet Jesus says just pray for your daily provisions.

- Francis Chan

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today! Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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.	<p><i>No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!</i></p> <p><i>As Jesus' courageous disciples, living God's grace, we strive to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Worship faithfully</i>- <i>Welcome openly</i>- <i>Grow spiritually</i>- <i>Care passionately</i>- <i>Serve generously</i>
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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Hungering and thirsting, we come before our God.

P: **Feed us, Gentle God, with your Word of hope.**

L: Give us the bread of life and fill us compassion.

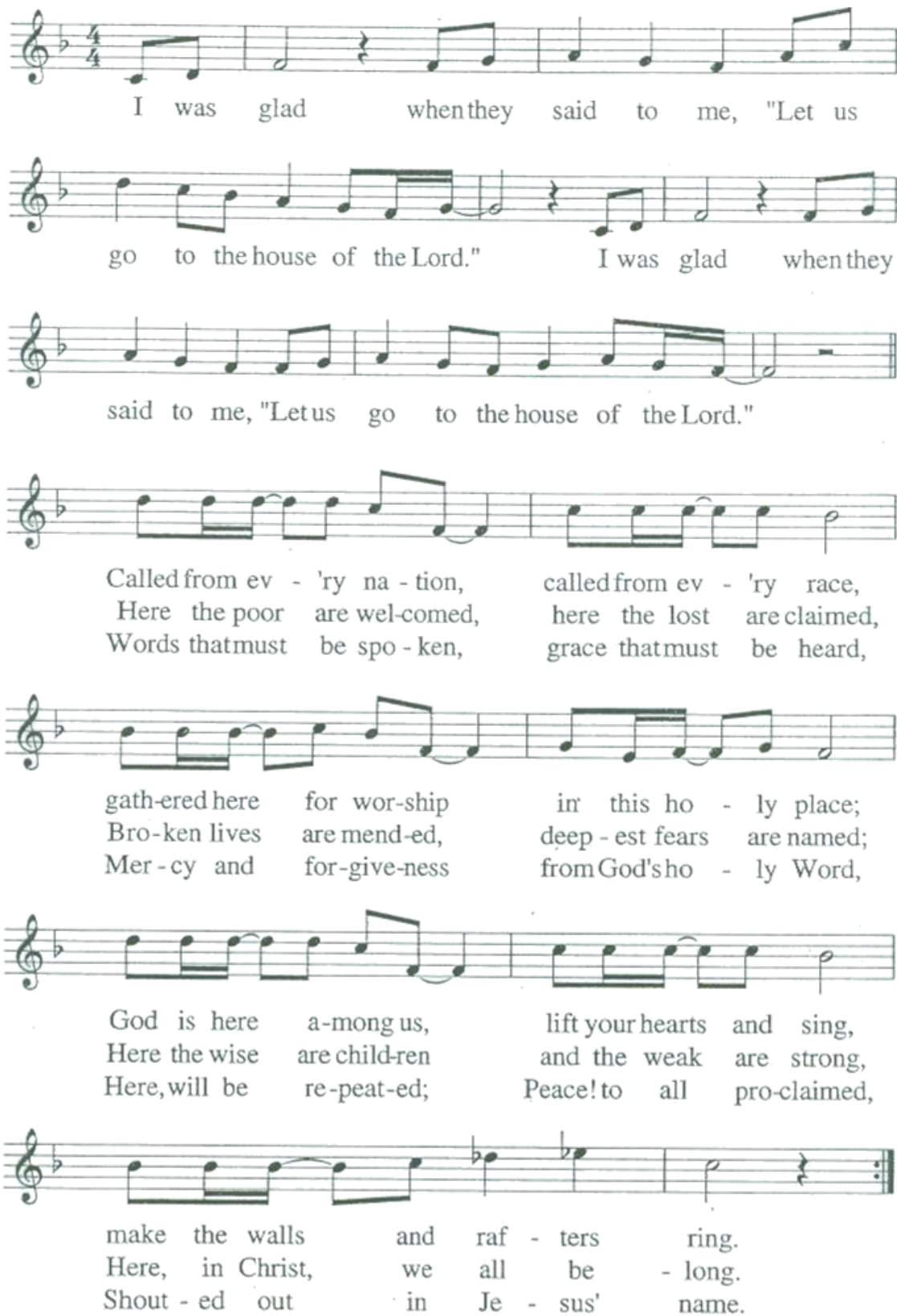
P: **Feed us, Risen Christ, as we gather at your table.**

L: Grant us your presence that together we may be your faithful people

P: **Feed us, Holy Spirit, that we may do your will in our lives.**

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

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." 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**

Source of all Life, **we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. Forgive us. Stir your grace in each of us. Reform us to be a people powered by love, willing to speak up for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: God hears our cry and sends the Holy Spirit to change us and empower new life in our lives.

P: Let us receive the Holy Spirit and be changed.

L: In Christ our sins are forgiven, and we are raised up to new life.

P: Let us live as forgiven people and be at peace.

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**

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Isaiah 55:1-5**

PSALM 145:13b-21

*R Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness.
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed they hand has provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, God onto me.*

L: The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

P: The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

L: The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

P: The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.

L: The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

P: He fulfils the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them.

L: The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

P: My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever. R

Celebrating the Meal

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

The Invitation to the Meal

L: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst."

P: **In the company of all who are hungry and thirsty, we come to this table to know the risen Christ and to share in the life giving bread of life and cup of blessing.**

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

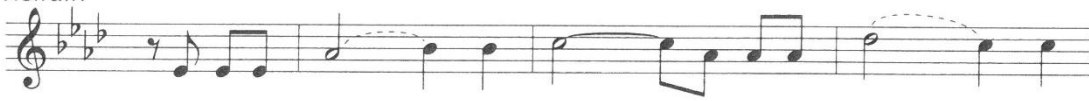
Distribution of the Elements

Hymns during the distribution of the elements:


I Am The Bread of Life

Congregation join on refrain:

Refrain



And I will raise you up, and I will raise you
Yo le re - su - ci - ta - ré, Yo le re - su - ci - ta -



up, and I will raise you up on the last day.
ré, Yo le re - su - ci - ta - ré el di - a de El.

One Bread, One Body

Congregation join on refrain:

***One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.***

This is the Body of Christ

***This is the body of Christ, broken that we may be whole;
This cup, as promised by God, true to his word, cradles our Lord;
Food for the good of the soul.***

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.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

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

***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.***

***He's got you and me, sister, in his hands,
He's got you and me, brother, in his hands,
He's got everybody in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.***

Proclaiming the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

John 6:27-35

SERMON

Give Us Today Our Daily Bread

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

Bread for the Journey

7



1,5 Give us bread for the jour - ney give us bread. Give us
2 Guide our way as we trav - el guide our way. Guide our
3 Make us one with each oth - er make us one. Make us
4 Lead us home to the gar - den, lead us home. Lead us

7



bread for the jour - ney give us bread. When our legs are get - ting
way as we trav - el guide our way. With so ma - ny roads be -
one with each oth - er make us one. All the walls we've built a -
home to the gar - den, lead us home; where we'll live with all cre -

12



heav - y, and we're hang - ing down our heads, give us bread for the
fore us where to go is hard to say. Guide our way as we
round us: may we learn to tear them down. Make us one with each
a - tion find our place and nev - er roam. Lead us home to the

16



jour - ney, give us bread.
trav - el guide our way.
oth - er, make us one.
gar - den, lead us home.

***STATEMENT OF FAITH – United Church of Christ**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Surely the Presence

Chancel Choir

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.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**



Let us bring ev - 'ry gift, let us trea - sure ev - 'ry grace: As you've

3
giv - en to us, let us share. In our neigh - bor to - day we will

6
meet you face to face, Let your love be the rule ev - 'ry - where.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Extravagant God, thank you for your blessings in our lives. We offer ourselves in grateful response, seeking to live with such compassion toward others that your blessings will flow through us to bless our community and our world. For the sake of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

Sending

*HYMN

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

#18

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Peter Rayne</i>
Cantor:	<i>David Reilly</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Kathy and Beth Rausch</i>
Deacons:	<i>Karen Lloyd, Lois Martin, Peter and Natasha Rayne</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Dennis and Lynn Linder</i>
Nursery:	<i>Kahla Fuller</i>
Video Team:	<i>Mike Stifter, Murphy Beatty</i>
Trustee:	<i>Trish Graves</i>
Counters:	<i>Trish Graves, Dennis Linder</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>
CE Minister:	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
Senior Pastor:	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

Altar table flowers are given by Jamie Mills in memory of Yvonne Fredrick.

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Sept 18, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,429	\$ 356,284
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 376,542

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, Deb Larson (Jen Meyer's mother), Zeke Wells, Sara (friend of Dave Reilly), Neil (son of Yvonne Benson), Suzie May and Nick Simpson, Gina (friend of Barb Stephens), Neal Prochnow, Peyton, Dorothy Sorenson, Carole Mottaz, Loral Keil, Brian Nelson (brother of Scott Nelson), Dorothy (mother of Rene Bylander)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For those going on the Spring Break Mission trip who are gathering today to learn more about it, may it be a time of loving God, neighbor and self
- For those helping our Trustees clean up the outside of our church for winter on Saturday, October 29 from 9-11am
- For our new Minister of Community and Outreach, the Rev. Deb Meyer, who begins her ministry here November 1
- For those who each Sunday volunteer as liturgists, deacons, teachers, trustees, nursery workers, garden geeks
- For those who support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings, and gifts--you are all a blessing

Prayers for our World:

- For those cleaning up and assessing after recent hail damage
- For those getting Covid in the latest wave, may they rest and not spread it
- For the people in Puerto Rico devastated by yet another hurricane
- For the gifts of the fall season which are too many to list!
- For peace in Ukraine, may a better way forward be found

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For those who will receive their college packs soon, may it remind them they belong to a large family
- For the return of Wednesday Meals (sign up to eat and help!) and Wednesday School on October 5
- For our those who are serving on church committees and who met this past week in the Fellowship Hall, that the year may be marked by faithful service and growing connections
- For Joe Querna and Marlee Gram who will be married on October 8 in Stillwater, may you be graced with Christ's love.
- For Heidi and Mason Wilhelmy as they baptize their daughter Murphy Rose on October 23rd, together may they grow in faith

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Jamie Mills, on the death of her grandmother Yvonne Frederick, may her family be graced with faith and gratitude for a life well lived
- For the family of Linn Lawrence whose mother, Audrey Johnson, died and whose Memorial Service will be October 15 in LaCrosse, may you all be held in God's care
- For the family of Ryan Malm, a recent graduate of RFHS and former army vet who died recently in an accident in Ohio, and whose Memorial Gathering will be at the RF Golf Club on Saturday, October 8 from 1-4pm with Pastor Chris assisting, may they be given strength and faith

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

Worship Notes: Praying with Jesus: Daily Bread

What are you hungry for?

God is in the feeding business

- Physically
- Spiritually

Cheap Calories and our search for real Good

- Tim Brady
- Paradox for our time

Jesus is the 'Living Bread'

- Give
- Us
- Daily
- Bread

Jeff's Bistro – www.jeffhansonart.com



Scripture Focus: Why do you spend your money on for that which is not bread, and you labor for that which does not satisfy? -Isaiah 55:2

Discipleship Focus: How can we ask God to feed us and then allow ourselves to feed others?

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
 and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
 Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
 See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
 because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 6:27-35

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'