

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

*January 13, 2019*



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

JANUARY 13, 2019

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

*"THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST"*

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“Leading worship today are our confirmands (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders) who were on retreat this weekend. Our theme this year was “Love Your Selfie.”

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today! Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall between the 9:00 &amp; 10:30 worship services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~The Nursery is available for young children.</li><li>~Church Mouse activity bags are available for children.</li><li>~Large print bulletins and hearing impaired devices are available from the ushers.</li><li>~Please stand when noted by the *</li><li>~Congregation responses are in bold.</li></ul>	<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"><li>~ <i>Worship faithfully</i></li><li>~ <i>Welcome openly</i></li><li>~ <i>Grow spiritually</i></li><li>~ <i>Care passionately</i></li><li>~ <i>Serve generously</i></li></ul>
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**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Isaiah 43:1-7)

**L:** God says: “Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.

**P:** **When you cross deep rivers, you will not drown. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned.**

**L:** For I am your God, the Holy One, your Savior. You are precious in my sight and I love you.

**P:** **So do not fear, for I am with you. No matter where you are scattered, I will bring you home.**

**All:** **I created you for my glory. I made each one of you. You are mine.”  
Thanks be to God! Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN

"All Are Welcome"

(verses 1, 3, 5)



Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and  
Let us build a house where love is found in  
Let us build a house where all are named, their



words are strong and true. Where all God's chil - dren  
wa - ter, wine and wheat; A ban - quet hall on  
songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



dare to seek to dream God's reign a -  
ho - ly ground, where peace and jus - tice  
taught and claimed as words with - in the



new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as  
meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, is re -  
Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of



sym - bol of God's grace; Here as one we claim the  
veiled in time and space, As we share in Christ the  
faith and songs of grace. Let this house pro - claim from



faith of Je - sus; } All are wel - come, all are wel - come,  
feast that frees us; }  
floor to raft - er: }



all are wel - come in this place.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (inspired by Isaiah 43, Psalm 29, Luke 3)

L: Creator of the Universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise,

**P: But we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name.**

L: We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary,

**P: But shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit.**

L: Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God.

**P: Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

**P: "I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you."**

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** *"Love is Flowing"*

*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.*

*Peace is pouring: peace is pouring, peace is pouring from the fountain of life.*

*Peace is pouring: peace is pouring, peace is pouring 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.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Chancel Choir**

**TIME WITH CHILDREN (10:30 am)**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**SONG OF BLESSING (10:30 am)** (Children preschool through grade 8 may go to Sunday School. Worship bags and children's bulletins are available in the back.)

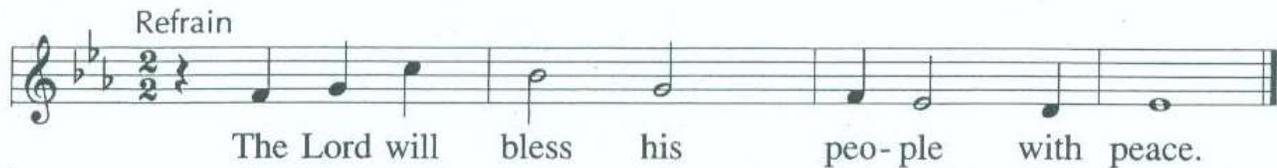
*He's got the whole world in his hands,  
He's got the whole wide world in his hands,  
He's got the whole world in his hands,  
He's got the whole world in his hands.*

*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.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

**Isaiah 43:1-7**

**PSALM 29** (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)



**L:** Angels shout, "Hallelujah!"

**P:** Earth replies, "Hallelujah!"

**L:** Let all stand in awe before the glory of God!

**P:** God thunders across the waters, God's voice echoes over the floods.

**L:** God's voice is powerful, majestic.

**P:** God thunders, the cedars reel.

**L:** God thunders, the mountains quake.

**P:** God thunders, lightning rains.

**L:** God thunders, the desert shakes.

**P:** Let all God's people say, "Glory!"

**L:** God's throne is above the waters, God's rule is eternal.

**All:** God makes us strong! God gives us peace! Hallelujah! Let us worship God. *R*

## GOSPEL LESSON

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH** (written by Bruce Prewer)

L: I believe in God who speaks through the prophets and lifts our gaze up to high and beautiful paths and peaks.

**P: I believe in Christ Jesus, free of corruption yet willingly numbered among the sinners, baptised in the waters of the Jordan.**

L: I believe in the Spirit who rested on Jesus like a dove, and who inspired him with such love as the world has not seen before or since.

**P: I believe that those who are baptised into Christ shall share his Spirit, his mission and his ultimate victory over sin and death.**

L: I believe that there is no human ability that cannot be enlarged, and no weakness that cannot be used by Christ to the praise of God.

**P: I believe that this believing is a gift from God, not to be used for self-gratification but for the building up of the church and for humble service the world**

L: I believe in myself as a baptized child of God, the recipient of a healing grace which precedes and supersedes all my efforts to be true.

**P: With the help of God, I will attempt to live my belief all the days of my life, and by his grace, dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen!**

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

(Written by Ryck Pryce)

L: God of light and darkness, through water and Word you shine your light into the darkness of our lives. We give thanks for this incredible gift. Lord, in your mercy,

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: God of love and hate, your love comes in spite of our animosity; you bring reconciliation to those who are divided. We pray for better relations between The United States and other nations, Strengthen us to be peacemakers. Lord, in your mercy,

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: God of hope and fear, you walk with us through the challenges which surround us. Wash away our anxiety by your promised presence, and set us free from despair. Lord, in your mercy,

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: God of church and world, in baptism you unify yourself with our world, and bring your reign into being. Keep us from seeing your love as a hiding place. Motivate us to infuse the world with your justice. Lord, in your mercy,

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: God of health and illness, there is nothing that separates us from your love. Inspire us to bring your health to the sick, your encouragement to the discouraged, your promise to the dying, especially those we name before you now.....Lord, in your mercy,

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: God of life and death, all that exists is from you, and for you. Enable us to trust your baptismal promise, and serve this hurting world. Lord, in your mercy,

**P: Hear our prayer.**

L: God who shines in the darkness, receive these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, in the name of the one who is your light, and who taught us to pray saying.....

**P: 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

### *"With Our Voices We'll Tell"*



Let us bring ev - 'ry gift, let us trea - sure ev - 'ry grace: As you've  
giv - en to us, let us share. In our neigh - bor to - day we will  
meet you face to face, Let your love be the rule ev - 'ry - where.

### **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (written by Joanna Harader)

Loving God, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

### **\*HYMN**

*"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"*

#173

### **\*COMMISSIONING** (by Jan L. Richardson)

May your life be a river. May you flow with the purpose of the One who created and called you, who directs your course and turns you ever toward home. May your way shimmer with the light of Christ who goes with you who bears you up who calls you by name and may you hear: You Are Mine. **Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

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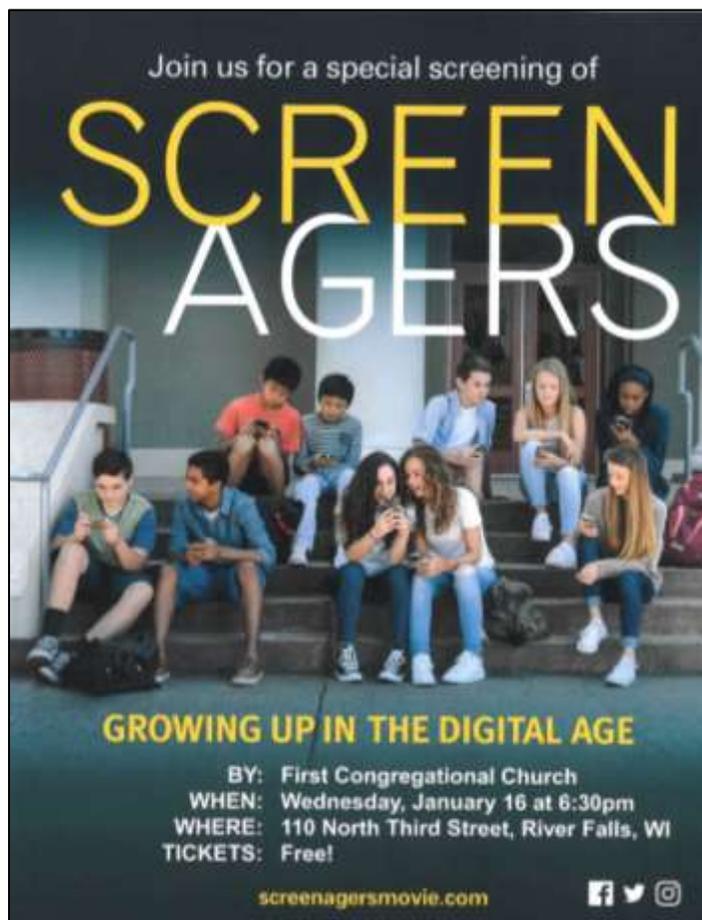
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Assisting in today's worship service are:

<b>Liturgist:</b>		<i>Confirmands</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>		<i>Mission Ed Committee</i>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<i>Gloria Gardner, Bernice Larson, Traci Hagberg</i>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<i>Evelyn Purdy, Linn Lawrence, Nathan Lawrence</i>
<b>Welcomers:</b>		<i>Fred and Yvonne Benson</i>
<b>Nursery:</b>		<i>Sheila Peterson</i>
<b>Organist:</b>		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
<b>Trustee:</b>		<i>Dan Meier</i>
<b>Counters:</b>		<i>Marie Roe, Jean Smith</i>
<b>Among Friends Coordinator:</b>		<i>Norma Revels</i>
<b>Music Coordinator:</b>		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
<b>Choir Director:</b>		<i>Scott Perau</i>
<b>Bell Choir Director:</b>		<i>Jamie Mills</i>
<b>Church Moderator:</b>		<i>Neal Prochnow</i>
<b>Church Secretary:</b>		<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
<b>Youth Pastor:</b>		<i>JaNae Westrich</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 Lillian Tan  
in memory of her sister Lily T. Wong.*



Join us for a showing of  
the award winning film  
“Screenagers: Growing Up  
in the Digital Age”  
this Wednesday,  
January 16 in the  
Fellowship Hall from  
6:30 to 8:00 pm.

**First Congregational UCC, 110 N. Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022**

**Tel: 425-2052 Email: [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org) Fax: 425-9800**

- Sun., Jan 13            8:00 am - Choir Practice  
                             9:00 am - Worship Service  
                             9:00 am - Adult Forum  
                             10:00 am - Coffee Fellowship  
                             10:30 am - Worship Service  
                             10:45 am - Sunday School  
                             11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast
- Mon., Jan 14            7:00 pm - Cribbage
- Tues., Jan 15            9:00 am - Yoga  
                             9:00-3:00 pm - Among Friends  
                             1:00-2:30 pm - Bible Study  
                             3:00 pm - Wellhaven Gathering  
                             6:30 pm - Boards and Committees Meetings  
                             7:30 pm - Church Council Meeting
- Wed., Jan 16            3:45-5:00 pm - Wednesday School  
                             5:15-6:15 pm - Family Meal  
                             6:00 pm - Jubilee Ringers  
                             6:30 pm - All Youth and Parents – Screenagers  
                             7:00 pm - Chancel Choir
- Thurs., Jan 17            8:00 am - Greenwood Kindness Retreat  
                             9:00 am - Yoga
- Sun., Jan 20            8:00 am - Choir Practice  
                             9:00 am - Worship Service  
                             9:00 am - Adult Forum  
                             10:00 am - Coffee Fellowship  
                             10:30 am - Worship Service  
                             10:45 am - Sunday School  
                             11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast

**Please remember the following in your prayers this week:**

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Steve (brother in law of Carole Mottaz), Nancy (sister of Bobbie Kuhn), Barb (sister of Sue Simonet), Jared (relative of John and Joan Hyland), Jack Husak (father of Juli Okal), Pam Creydt (friend of Sue Grisar), Barb de Souza, Marty (nephew of Barb Wall), Larry Wiskerchen (father of Dawn Follstad), Avis Thompson (sister of Alice Hanson), Betty Church, Carol Merriman

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For our Confirmands and Choir leading us in worship today, that they may bring joy to our souls
- For our committees and Church Council who meet this Tuesday night, that together we may discern the ways God is leading us
- For those getting ready for the Annual Shrimp Boil on Sunday, January 27, that it may be a time of celebrating the ministry of Back Bay Mission to whom we send a mission team in late March
- For committee chairs reviewing their 2018 accomplishments, establishing goals for 2019, and writing their annual reports which are due Monday, January 14 (hint, hint!)
- For those confirmands who were on retreat next weekend that they may grow in the love of God, neighbor and self (our theme this year is 'Love Your Selfie')

Prayers for our world:

- That we may remember the three loves of our Christian faith – love of God, love of neighbor and love of self
- For parents struggling with issues of technology and teens, that Wednesday's program may help them
- For strength, grace and humor as we confront the challenges of aging
- For government workers who are furloughed, and working without pay, for "when the elephants rumble it is grass that suffers"
- That political squabbling may end and we may address the many problems of our world
- For those looking for Jayme Class, that she may be safely found
- For those working to care for our delicate creation and the daily decisions we make to help do this

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For our young people leading us in worship this Sunday
- For Jeff Pajac who will share his faith story during the Tell Me A Story moment on Sunday, January 20
- For the gift of sunshine on a cold winter's day and our brief winter warm up
- For those who serve Coffee Fellowship each week (there are openings in February, hint, hint)
- For all those who give of their time, energy and passion to work in church ministries

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For Don Davis as he mourns the death of his sister
- For the family of Marge Stokke who died recently
- For Sylvia (Scott Nelson's mom) who died suddenly recently, may she rest in God's faithful care
- For the Follstad and Olson families in mourning, that God may comfort them

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please see the pastor or use the blue prayer cards in the pews or on the back sign-up table.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 43:1-7**

But now, this is what the LORD says he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth. Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”