

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

October 18, 2020

*"Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost"*

10:00 am

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**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**SONG** *"Blessed Assurance"*

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation,  
purchase of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood. Refrain*

*Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blessed; Watching and  
waiting, looking above, filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. Refrain*

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Genesis 12:1-5a**

**HOMILY**

**The Gift of Faith: Bless**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**SONG** *"Blest Are They"*

*Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Blessed are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled. Refrain*

*Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!*

*Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God! Refrain*

**TELL ME A STORY**

**Scott Jameson**

## **\*STATEMENT OF FAITH - Indonesia**

**I believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression.**

**I believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who are turned toward the truth.**

**I believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.**

**I believe in God's promise to finally destroy the power of sin in us all, and to establish the kingdom of justice and peace for all humankind.**

**I do not believe that suffering need be in vain, that death is the end, that the disfigurement of our world is what God intended.**

**But I dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform and transfigure, fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth where justice and peace will flourish. Amen.**

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

**...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.**

## **SONG**

### ***"May the Lord, Mighty God"***

*May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever;  
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.*

*Lift up your eyes and see God's face, full of grace forever;  
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.*

## **BLESSING**

## **POSTLUDE**

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

**Those who are ill or recovering:**

Gary (Ann Gustafson's brother in law), Dahn Carrison, Dan Filkins, Bernice Larson, Megan (daughter of Steve and Janice Healy), Teddi (friend of Janice Healy), Grace (mother of Lori Larson), Chelsea, Barb Greub, Chuck (Jan Hansen's brother in law), Logan (friend of Juli Okal), Nancy Hove (Pierce County Sheriff diagnosed with brain cancer), Mark and Caroline Ferry (friends of Joy Anderson), Jason Kuhl (cousin of Rose Rude), Darren (friends of Trautmiller's)

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

- For our Committees and Church Council who meet on Tuesday, that they may have the mind of Christ
- For those who are enjoying our Wednesday Night meal program, and look forward to next week's meal (sign up!)
- For those in the Wednesday Bible Study group led by Pastor Stacy, as they explore the Sermon on the Mount
- For the 5 musical groups being led by Jamie Mills on Wednesday nights, beginner bells, advanced bells, intern bells, brass group and vocal group. You are a gift to us Jamie!
- For those who continue to support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings and gifts, bless you!

**Prayers for our World:**

- For teachers trying creative ways to engage students in online learning and students trying to stay focused
- For parents having to balance work, home and now school pressures like never before
- For those quarantining due to Covid-19, may they stay home and find ways to stay busy
- For those that are dating or trying to date in our new reality, may you find creative ways to connect with each other
- For all of us trying to balance safety and living, that we may be given God's wisdom and compassion
- For small business owners who are struggling to stay open in the age of COVID-19
- For those working for a vaccine for COVID-19, that God may speed their work
- For our leaders in government that they may work together to address our many pressing issues

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For the Rev. Jack Merner, former pastor of First Congregational, who turns 100 years old on October 17. You can send cards to him at: Fred Lind Manor, 1802 – 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, Apt 222, Seattle, WA 98122
- For Jan Hansen who delivered this month's treat bags to our shut-ins, you are a blessing!
- For Barb de Souza who will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 18 (cards can be sent to her at 620 West Walnut Street, River Falls, WI 54022), that she may continue to stay busy and involved
- For the Garden Geeks, led by Lu Lueck, who took care of our outdoor plants all summer long—bless you
- For Dan and Eunice Filkins celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Friday, November 13, may you enjoy many more years together!
- For Mark Anderson who is building a little church which will be outside the church door and be a place to drop off and pick up items after church hours—it will be like our little church from VBS which sits to the right of the main church doors

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

- For the family of Ginny Hilden, who died recently and who will gather at Greenwood Cemetery today for a family graveside service, that they may be comforted
- For the family of George Anderson, son of Synneva and Paul, who died recently that he may rest in God's strong care
- For those in mourning, including Veith, Keatley, and Larson families as well as all those who have died from Covid-19

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

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Genesis 12:1-5a**

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

Worship participants for this week:

*Audio/Visual: Andy Myers, Matt Stifter, John Sullivan*

*Music: Terry Mithun, Jamie Mills*

*Deacons: Natasha Rayne, Karen Lloyd*

*Counters: Marie Roe, Kris Roen*

*Preacher: Rev. Chris Myers*

**Treasurer’s Report**

	<u>Week of</u> <u>Oct 11, 2020</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 8,205	\$ 367,200
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,582	\$ 392,862

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

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.