

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

March 17, 2019



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

MARCH 17, 2019

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

"SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT"

"Christ be within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ inquired, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger."
~Prayer of St. Patrick

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

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: As people of Christ,

P: We seek to be of the same mind as Christ.

L: As people of Christ,

P: We seek to have the same love as Christ.

L: As people of Christ,

P: We seek to serve those Christ loves.

L: As people of Christ,

P: We seek to look to the interests of others.

L: As people of Christ,

P: We come together this morning to proclaim Jesus Christ the Lord!

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

*HYMN

"Rain Down"

Refrain

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn "Rain Down". It consists of five staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is labeled "Refrain". The lyrics are: "Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your peo - ple. Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life." The second staff has three alternative lyrics: "1 Faith - ful and", "2 We who re -", and "3 God of crea -". The third staff has the lyrics: "true is the word of our God. All of God's works are so", "vere and find hope in our God live in the kind - ness and", and "a - tion, we long for your truth; you are the wa - ter of". The fourth staff has the lyrics: "wor - thy of trust. God's mer - cy falls on the just and the", "joy of God's wing. God will pro - tect us from dark - ness and", and "life for our thirst. Grant that your love and your peace touch our". The fifth staff is labeled "to Refrain" and has the lyrics: "right; full of God's love is the earth.", "death; God will not leave us to starve.", and "hearts, all of our hope lies in you."

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your peo - ple. Rain down,
rain down, rain down your love, God of life. 1 Faith - ful and
2 We who re -
3 God of crea -
true is the word of our God. All of God's works are so
vere and find hope in our God live in the kind - ness and
a - tion, we long for your truth; you are the wa - ter of
wor - thy of trust. God's mer - cy falls on the just and the
joy of God's wing. God will pro - tect us from dark - ness and
life for our thirst. Grant that your love and your peace touch our
right; full of God's love is the earth.
death; God will not leave us to starve.
hearts, all of our hope lies in you.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy God, you call us to wear compassion;

P: Forgive us when our style tends toward selfishness and greed.

L: You call us to wear kindness;

P: Forgive us when malice comes out of our closets.

L: You call us to wear humility;

P: Forgive us when we put on haughtiness.

L: You call us to wear patience.

P: **Forgive us when we wrap ourselves in our own timetables.**

L: You call us to wear forgiveness;

P: **Forgive us when our grudges fit us all too well.**

L: Above all, you call us to clothe ourselves in love.

P: **Forgive us when we wear anything less.**

All: **Fashion us once again to be your people, made in your image, wearing signs of your abundant love for all, woven together in the body of Christ. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Do not be afraid, God says, for I am sending you to do my work.

P: **Do not be afraid, God says, go forth and serve.**

L: Do not be afraid, God says, for I am always with you.

P: **Do not be afraid, God says, for I have chosen you.**

L: Let us live then as God's people, forgiven and sent forth in Christ's name.

All: **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)



COMMISSIONING of Back Bay Mission Participants (10:30 am)

Adults: Mark Anderson, Tim Bylander, Matthew Cernohous, Carole Mottaz, Chris Myers, Stacy Johnson Myers, Mike Stifter, Matthew Thurston, Callie Trautmiller

Youth: Kaye Anderson, Ethan Cernohous, Mya Davis, Jana Elsesser, Derick Graves, Zachary Martin, Andrew Myers, Kathryn Myers, Matthew Myers, Jaime Peterson, Mikayla Peterson, Samantha Thurston, Jada Trautmiller, William Tuchtenhagen,

L: All who take upon themselves the name of Christ are called into ministries of love and service by the example of Christ. As these members of our community begin their work among the people of Biloxi, we pray the blessings of God and this community upon their endeavors.

P: **We recognize you as ambassadors of this congregation in ministry with Back Bay Mission and dedicate you to service in the name of Jesus Christ. Through our prayers we will be united with you in your work. May God richly bless your labors.**

L: Let us affirm our belief in the responsibilities of Christian service.

All: **We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts. We commit ourselves to the dignity of all persons and to the improvement of the quality of life for all God's people. We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world and to the rule of justice among all peoples. We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs, and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"An Irish Melody"

Jubilee Ringers

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.)

*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.*

*Jesus loves me! Still today, walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:31-35

PSALM 27 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

Refrain

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, of
whom should I be a - fraid, of whom should I be a - fraid?

L: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

P: **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

L: When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh – my adversaries and foes – they shall stumble and fall.

P: **Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.**

L: One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

P: **For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. ℞**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 3:17-4:1

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

"We Are Called"

Verses



1. Come! Live in the light!
2. Come! O - pen your heart!
3. Sing! Sing a new song!



Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are
Show your mer - cy to all those in fear! We are
Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will



called to be light for the king - dom, to
called to be hope for the hope - less so all
reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God!
ha - tred and blind - ness will be no more!
sis - ters and broth - ers u - ni - ted in love!

Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly, we are called to serve one an - oth - er;



to walk hum - bly with God!

*STATEMENT OF FAITH - South Africa

We believe in one God who created all the world,
who will unite all things in Christ
and who wants all people to live together in one family.

We believe in God the Son who became human:
died and rose in triumph to reconcile all the world to God,
to break down every separating barrier of race, culture or class
and to unite all people into one body.

We believe in God the Spirit, the pledge of God's coming reign
who gives the Church power to proclaim the good news to all the world,
to love and serve all people, to strive for justice and peace:
to warn that God judges both the individual and the nations;
and to summon all the world to accept God's reign, here and now. 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.

TELL ME A STORY

Carol Merriman

OFFERTORY

With Our Voices We'll Tell"

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

Holy God, sometimes we scurry so for joy that we forget what it feels like. Sometimes we work so hard for peace that we neglect the peace that is sitting with us in our chair. Sometimes we hope so much for hope that we miss the hopeful signs that are right underfoot. And sometimes we are so urgent for a gift that we forget to give. Let this day be different, O God. Let us give freely, as freely as you are able to receive. Amen.

*HYMN

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

#471

*COMMISSIONING

Go with the love of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God your creator. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord your God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Reprinted music used by permission under the following licenses:

OneLicense.net A-703731

CCLI License 2892021

Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	9:00 am	<i>Rebecca Ferguson</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Larissa Lueck</i>
Coffee Fellowship:		<i>Caren and Neal Prochnow</i>
Ushers:	9:00 am	<i>Martha Olson, Peter Rayne, Bernice Larson</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Kathy and Beth Rausch, Suzanne Hagen</i>
Welcomers:		<i>Peg Thompson</i>
Nursery:		<i>Sheila Peterson</i>
Organist:		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Trustee:		<i>Tim Bylander</i>
Counters:		<i>Bob Ferguson, Roz Ostendorf</i>
Among Friends Coordinator:		<i>Norma Revels</i>
Music Coordinator:		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Choir Director:		<i>Scott Perau</i>
Bell Choir Director:		<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Church Moderator:		<i>Brad Williams</i>
Church Secretary:		<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
Youth Pastor:		<i>JaNae Westrich</i>
Minister for Community:		<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
CE Minister:		<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
Senior Pastor:		<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

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

Tel: 425-2052 Email: office@firstchurchrf.org Fax: 425-9800

- Sun., March 17 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
 11:30 am - Holy Land Trip Meeting
 11:30 am-1:00 pm - Young Families Gathering
- Tues., March 19 8:00 am - Men's Group
 9:00 am - Yoga
 9:00-3:00 pm - Among Friends
 1:00-2:30 pm - Bible Study
 3:00 pm - Wellhaven Gathering
 3:30 pm - Among Friends Board Meeting
 6:30 pm - Boards and Committees Meetings
 7:30 pm - Church Council Meeting
- Wed., March 20 3:45-5:00 pm - Wednesday School
 5:15-6:15 pm - Family Meal
 5:45 pm - Jubilee Ringers
 6:30 pm - Lenten Worship Service
 7:00 pm - Pre-Confirmation & Confirmation Year 2 (Grades 6 & 8)
 7:00 pm - Church Interns
 7:00 pm - Chancel Choir
- Thurs., March 21 9:00 am - Yoga
 6:30 pm - Inquirer's Class
- Sun., March 24 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:

- Nancy (sister of Bobbie Kuhn), Jack Husak (father of Juli Okal), Pam Creydt (friend of Sue Grisar), Carol Merriman, Karen (mother of Jamie Mills), Emma (daughter of Geoff and Tammy, friend of Paul Shepherd), Sara (friend of Cheryl Zakrzewski), Donna (sister of Marc Otto), John and Joan (parents of Jolene Sullivan), Gary (brother of Mike Gardner), Cindy Gandrud, Dean Grisar, Rosalie Harper (cousin of JoAnn Lentz), Annette Petersen

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For our Spring Break Mission campers who are commissioned this day, that they may be a blessing to others on their trip and return home safely
- For our Bell Choir leading us in worship today, that they may bring joy to our souls
- For those leading our Lenten worship services, "Prayer Around the Cross," that it may nurture all of us in the way of Christ
- For our Care Team who visits our shut-ins in their homes and brings God's love a little closer
- For our Young Families gathering today for a Parent's Time Out, that they may receive strength and wisdom through connection with others
- For our Relay for Life Team serving the Lenten meal on Wednesday, March 20
- For Mark Anderson, Tim Bylander and Mike Stifter who will drive the church van to Biloxi for the mission trip saving us much money in baggage fees, that they may have a safe and uneventful trip

Prayers for our world:

- For those excited for spring break!
- For those dealing with ice dams, flooding and the yuck and muck that comes with spring
- For children caring for their parents, and parents caring for their children, that they may be strengthened
- For those living with medical uncertainty, that God may grace them with courage
- For people trying to compassionately care for those with dementia, that they may be given joy
- For people anxious about so many things, that they may live in the peace of Christ
- For those struggling with addictions, that they may be freed

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For Polly Wymer our own "Hero of the Heart" who was honored by the Red Cross for her work on blood drives
- For Justin Wilson, "Firefighter of the Year" for the RF Fire Department, and for all of our volunteer firefighters, that God may watch over them
- For teachers, administrators, support staff and all who work in education, that their passion for learning may be contagious
- For those preparing for the Holy Land pilgrimage, that it may lead them deeper in their faith journey
- For deacons, trustees, coffee fellowship hosts, welcomers and all who strive to make this a welcoming place

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the Simmonet family as they mourn the death of Barb
- For the family of Tom O'Connell, patriarch of the O'Connell Funeral Homes, may he rest in peace
- For the family of Marty (nephew of Barb Wall), who died this past week at the age of 51
- For the Mahoney family as they mourn the death of Terry, that God may comfort them
- For the Hoffman and Stoppelmoor families in mourning, that healing may occur

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.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Join us for "Prayer Around the Cross" from 6:30-7:00 pm each Lenten Wednesday.

**Wednesday Night Schedule During Lent**

- 3:45–5:15 pm Wednesday School
- 5:15–6:15 pm Family Meal (Please make a reservation)
- 5:45–6:30 pm Bell Practice
- 6:30–7:00 pm Worship
- 7:00–7:30 pm Confirmation
- 7:00–8:00 pm Choir