

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

May 12, 2019



Psalm 118:24, NRSV

Visioning a 2020 Community of Faith

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

MAY 12, 2019

9:00 & 10:30 AM

“FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER”

“No outcasts were cast out far enough in Jesus' world to make him shun them - not Roman collaborators, not lepers, not prostitutes, not the crazed, not the possessed.”
~Garry Wills

<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: Blessed be the name of God this day and all days, and for all time forevermore!

P: **From the rising of the spring morning sun to its setting, the name of God is to be praised.**

L: It is good to give thanks to God, to sing praises to God's name.

P: **And to declare God's steadfast love and faithfulness always.**

All: **Let us praise and adore the God of all creation! Amen.**

*HYMN

“This Is the Day”

#84

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of enduring love, we long for peace in our spirits and peace in our world. We long for harmony in our families, for quiet in the midst of struggle, and for faithfulness in the midst of uncertainty. We confess that we are often anxious about our lives and our living. We find it hard to take risks of faith. Look upon us with kindness and grace. Rule in our hearts and homes. Be with us as we journey the pathways of life that Jesus showed us. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: God does not give up on us. God is with us.

P: God came to this world in Jesus. God stays by us through the Holy Spirit.

L: God's forgiveness is abundant. God always shows us the way forward.

P: May God bless us, lead us in life's journey, and keep us always!

All: Thanks be to God!

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)



Je - sus, name a-bove all names; beau-ti-ful Sav - ior, glo-ri-ous Lord.



Em - man-u-el, God is with us; blessed Re - deem-er, Liv - ing Word.

TIME WITH CHILDREN (10:30 am)

Rev. Dave Ostendorf

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 the little children, all the children of the world,
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58:6-9

PSALM 22:22-31 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join when directed)

R

$\text{♩} = 76$

p

Dm G Dm B \flat C F A

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name. _____

p

Dm G Dm B \flat C Dm

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

L: I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the LORD, praise him!

P: **All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

L: For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

- P:** From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- L:** The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!
- P:** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
- L:** To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
- P:** Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it. *R*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:36-43 and 10:1-6

SERMON

Rev. Dave Ostendorf

***HYMN**

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

#498

***STATEMENT OF FAITH (taken from the New Zealand Church)**

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now.

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and hear; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you. 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.

MISSION MOMENT

Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn

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

Loving and generous God, all good gifts around us come from you. You have given us life, and new life in Jesus Christ. You have given us the gifts of life that we now offer to you so that the work of our community of faith might be carried far and wide. May these gifts build up the realm of peace and justice that Jesus calls us to be and to become. Amen.

***COMMISSIONING**

Go now in peace to love and serve God, to love and serve God’s peoples, and with the courage of the living Christ, to love and serve those who are cast out. May God bless us and strengthen us in doing so. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Visioning a 2020 Community of Faith is a Summer of looking forward in light of the Church’s ancient stories and our own call into God’s world today and in the future.

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>Kathy Wochomurka</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Jill Paulson</i>
Coffee Fellowship:		<i>High School Youth</i>
Ushers:	9:00 am	<i>Martha Olson, Gloria Gardner, Traci Hagberg</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Kathy and Beth Rausch, Suzanne Hagen</i>
Welcomers:		<i>Bob Gustafson</i>
Nursery:		<i>Sheila Peterson</i>
Organist:		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Trustee:		<i>Allen Barnes</i>
Counters:		<i>Diane Welsh, Janice Healy</i>
Among Friends Coordinator:		<i>Norma Revels</i>
Music Coordinator:		<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Choir Director:		<i>Scott Perau</i>
Bell Choir Director:		<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Church Moderator:		<i>Brad Williams</i>
Office Coordinator:		<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., May 12 | 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 | - Relay for Life Plant Sale |
| | 11:30 am | - High School Lock-In Ends |
| | Mon., May 13 | 7:00 pm |
| Tues., May 14 | 8:00 am | - Men's Group |
| | 9:00 am | - Yoga |
| | 9:00-3:00 pm | - Among Friends |
| Wed., May 15 | 5:00 pm | - Scholarship Committee Meeting |
| | 5:30 pm | - Jubilee Ringers |
| | 7:00 pm | - Chancel Choir |
| Thurs., May 16 | 9:00 am | - Yoga |
| Sun., May 19 | 8:00 am | - Music 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 | - Last Day of Sunday School Root Beer Floats and Yard Games |

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Nancy (sister of Bobbie Kuhn), Pam Creydt (friend of Sue Grisar), Carol Merriman, Emma (daughter of Geoff and Tammy, friend of Paul Shepherd), Sara (friend of Cheryl Zakrzewski), John and Joan (parents of Jolene Sullivan), Gary (brother of Mike Gardner), Rosalie Harper (cousin of JoAnn Lentz), Rich Hirstein, Sue (mother of Kate Jennings), Barb Miller (sister of Susan Walden), Sara (daughter of Barbara Stephens), Arlene (mother of Ann Jameson), Kate Jennings, Logan (friend of Okals)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For our Chancel Choir leading us in worship today, that they may bring joy to our souls
- For our confirmands who ended the program year with a Bowling Party
- For our Holy Land Pilgrims organizing a dinner and program on Wednesday, May 29
- For our Yoga group and their leader, Jan Hansen, that their bodies and minds may be strengthened

Prayers for our world:

- For flooding victims in the Midwest and in Mozambique, that many people will respond generously
- For those killed in worship spaces – churches, mosques and synagogues recently, that peace may come
- For those who have died in school shootings, and for their families, fellow students and communities
- For graduating seniors everywhere and of all ages that they may grow into the fullness of life and service in your ways of living
- For those struggling at school, that they may be strengthened
- For those struggling with memory issues and those trying to help them, especially those at Among Friends
- For all those who struggle in their faith lives that they may grow
- For hospice workers who act as agents of God's grace and love

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- 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 family and friends of Leona Matzek (mother of Sue Danielson) who died last week
- For the Anderson, Simonet and Mahoney 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.

NOTES

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 58:6-9

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 9:36-43 and 10:1-6

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius." He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" He answered, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside."