

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

All: We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

One: All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

All: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.

One: We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

All: We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

Hymn 497 GO DOWN MOSES  
When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go, oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go, Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh, to let my people go.

Thus saith the Lord, bold Moses said, let my people go, if not I'll smite your first-born dead, let my people go, Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh, to let my people go.

The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go, to lead the Hebrew children through, let my people go, Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh, to let my people go.

Then Miriam danced and sang her song, let my people go, "our God has triumphed over wrong!" let my people go, Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh, to let my people go.

Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go, and let us all in Christ be free, let my people go, Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh, to let my people go.

Prayer of Confession adapted from B. Tarwater  
O God, you call us to be doers of the Word, not hearers only. You call us to love the world with your passion, and to let that love be expressed in forgiveness, peace, compassion. Forgive us when our hearts are constricted with fear. Forgive us when we do not let your transforming grace open us to the world you cherish. Forgive us when we honor you only with our lips and not with our actions. Hear us pray... *(moments for silent reflections)*

Words of Assurance

Anthem Shakespeare/Quilter  
Fear No More the Heat O' the Sun

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's 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.

Hymn 386 ST. BRENDAN'S  
We Are One in the Spirit

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with walk other, we will walk hand in hand, we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, we will work with each other, we will work side by side, and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Offertory Herbert/Vaughan Williams  
The Call

Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson James 1:17-27  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Steve Hockstra

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*Everyone is welcome to share in this meal of gluten free, tree nut and peanut free bread.*

9:00 *Come forward when invited to take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup.*

10:30 *Serve the bread to one another and eat as you are served. Hold the cup of juice until all are served, that we may express our unity in Christ by drinking together.*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving** *(unison)*

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of 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. Amen.**

**Hymn 502**      Community of Christ      LEONI

**Community of Christ, who make the cross your own, live out your creed and risk your life for God alone: the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong, whose children are of every race and every song.**

**Community of Christ, look past the church's door and see the homeless, see the hungry, and the poor. Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street, take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.**

**Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round: disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy, turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.**

**When menace melts away, so shall God's will be**

**done, the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun; our currency be love and kindness our law, our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.**

## **Benediction**

## **Passing of the Peace**

## **Postlude**