

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
*August 7, 2022*



Photo by Elena Mozhviloh

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere    Musician: Linda Noble

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Lesaann Foris    Liturgist: Bruce Tyler

**Gathering Music**

**Words of Welcome**

**Prelude**

## Words to Enter Worship (Based on Isaiah 40)

*People who are tired of COVID:* **Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry out. A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD”**

*People who are vaccinated:* **“Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.”**

*People who know someone who tested positive:* **“Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all the people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” Have you not known? Have you not heard?**

*People who can't remember normal:* **The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. God gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.**

## Opening Hymn 459 Come O Fount of Every Blessing

- 1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it  
mount of God's redeeming love.
- 2 Here I pause in my sojourning,  
Giving thanks for having come,  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
blessed body, precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I am drawn a new !  
Let that grace, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you:  
prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I've known;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it;  
seal it for your very own.

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## **Words of Lament**

**O Distant God, we need rest, not exhaustion that overcomes us when we collapse, but restorative, renewing, and recreating rest. The ongoing onslaught of fires in the West, flooding in the East, the umpteenth variation of COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, the gridlock of our leaders, and the destruction of our world is way, way too much. Give us a time-out: not to sit in our corners, or go to our rooms without supper, but to gather around tables filled with good food, hugs freely given and received, and joy to erupt bountifully. Strengthen us so that we aren't worn down to the nub, help us to walk. Empower us to create that better world that is promised. Give us rest, O LORD, give us rest so we may continue the journey. Amen.**

## **Words of Blessing (Based on Psalm 33)**

**One:** Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous. Praise befits the loved. Praise the LORD with the guitar, make melody to God with the Clavi nova. Sing to God a new song.

**Many:** For the word of the LORD is upright, and all work is done in faithfulness. God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

**All:** By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of God's mouth.

**One:** Happy are the people whose God watches over them, the people who follow where God leads.

**Many:** The LORD sees all of humankind, God fashions the hears of them all, and observes all their deeds.

**All:** Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in God, because we trust in his holy word. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

## **Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace**

**It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.**

My Testament (Translated by John Weir) by Taras Shevchenko

When I am dead, bury me  
In my beloved Ukraine,  
My tomb upon a grave mound high  
Amid the spreading plain,

So that the fields, the boundless steppes,  
The Dnieper's plunging shore  
My eyes could see, my ears could hear,  
The mighty river roar.

When from Ukraine the Dnieper bears  
Into the deep blue sea  
The blood of foes ... then I will leave  
These hills and fertile fields –  
I'll leave them all and fly away  
To the abode of God.  
And then I'll pray ... But till that day  
I nothing know of God.

Oh bury me, then rise ye up  
And break your heavy chains  
And water with the tyrants' blood  
The freedom you have gained.  
And in the great new family,  
The family of the free,  
With softly spoken, kindly word  
Remember also me.  
(December 25, 1845 in Pereyaslav)

## Passing of the Peace

### Hymn 442 I'm Pressing on the Upward Way

1. I'm pressing on the upward way,  
New heights I'm gaining every day;  
Still praying as I onward bound,  
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Refrain:

O, lift me up, and I shall be by faith  
in heaven eternally;  
A higher plane than I have found,  
O plant my feet on higher ground

2. My heart has no desire to stay  
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Though some may dwell where these abound,  
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground. (refrain)
3. I want to live above the world,  
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;  
For faith has caught the joyful sound,  
The song of saints on higher ground. (refrain)

4. I want to scale the utmost height  
And catch a gleam of glory bright;  
But still I'll pray till rest I've found,  
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground." (refrain)

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## Scripture Readings

### 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Romans 8:26-39 (Common English Bible)

<sup>26</sup> In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words. <sup>27</sup> All of our thoughts are known to God. He can understand what is in the mind of the Spirit, as the Spirit prays for God's people. <sup>28</sup> We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him. They are the ones God has chosen for his purpose, <sup>29</sup> and he has always known who his chosen ones would be. He had decided to let them become like his own Son, so his Son would be the first of many children. <sup>30</sup> God then accepted the people he had already decided to choose, and he has shared his glory with them.

<sup>31</sup> What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? <sup>32</sup> God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> If God says his chosen ones are acceptable to him, can anyone bring charges against them? <sup>34</sup> Or can anyone condemn them? No indeed! Christ died and was raised to life, and now he is at God's right side, speaking to him for us. <sup>35</sup> Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, suffering, and hard times, or hunger and nakedness, or danger and death? <sup>36</sup> It is exactly as the Scriptures say,

"For you we face death all day long. We are like sheep on their way to be butchered."

<sup>37</sup> In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. <sup>38</sup> I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, <sup>39</sup> and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Luke 12:32-40 (New Revised Standard Version)

<sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

## **Children's Message** End of the World

### **Choir Anthem**

**Message** You must be ready? We are tired!

### **Musical Reflections**

#### **Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, Mother God, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

### **Our Time of Giving**

#### **Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

### **News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community**

#### **Closing Hymn 438** When Peace, Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)

1. When peace like a river holds me up each day,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain:

It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,  
let this blessed assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my estate. (Refrain)
3. My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (Refrain)
4. O God speed the day that is filled with your light,  
when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall sound and the Lord shall appear;  
even so, it is well with my soul. (Refrain)

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## **Benediction Sending Music**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**PRAYER LIST:** Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Larry (Jenny Delfs' father), Kris Baxter, Mike Carlson, Gwen Dornfeld, Tom Yuhasey, Rhonda Silence, Community of Uvalde and Highland Park, People of Ukraine, Shut-ins and Care Center: Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes.

### **MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS:**

The First Congregational UCC Budget adopted in January 2022 shows a need for a yearly income of \$151,756.

After 30 weeks the Budget Donations and Income should be \$87,551.48

The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$92,066.02

Thank You for all your support.

Kevin R Le Voir, Treasurer

**DONATE ONLINE!** We now have a Donation button on our church website as another option to give your pledges and offerings. Simply go to [grandmaraisucc.org](http://grandmaraisucc.org), and click the Donation button in the top right corner.

### **THIS WEEK**

Pastor Enno is on Vacation Thursday through Saturday.

### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 5**

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

8:00 AM - Harbor Watch

5:00 PM Roe vs. Rage Demonstration

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 7**

9:30 AM – CHOIR PRACTICE

10:30 AM – **Outside** AND ON [ZOOM](#) **9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**, in the Gospel story Jesus is talking to his disciples about the end times and exhorts them to be prepared and to never let their guard down. This can be done for maybe weeks at a time, but this cannot be done our whole lives. We live in a time where there is something always for us to guard against, especially as we go through this pandemic. Might we find some good news and good advice in these passages, or do we apply wisdom and discernment to also guard our mental and spiritual health?

### **MONDAY, AUGUST 8**

3:00-5:00PM - Food Shelf Open to Public (LL)

5:00 PM – Cleaning up the rain gardens in front of the Library.

7:00 PM - ALANON

Pastor Enno's Day off

### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 9**

8:30AM-4:30PM - Explorer's Club

9:30AM-12:00PM– Centering Prayer

7:00 PM - ZEN Meditation

### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10**

8:30AM-4:30PM - Explorer's Club

1:30 PM – Rooted and Rising

6:30 PM - Sing-a-Long & Music Jam

### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 11**

9:15 AM – Chaplains Meeting

10:00 AM – Tai Chi's  
12:00 PM - Women AA (FS)  
2:00 PM – Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting Planning Group

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 12**

7:00 AM - AA (FS)  
8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 13**

10:30 AM - Surely Discipleship Group

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 14**

9:30 AM – Pick-up Choir

10:30 AM – Inside AND ON [ZOOM](#) **10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**, looking at a letter sent to the early church that was also experiencing some world changing events. The writer of Hebrews reminds them to remember the stories of faith and the people who went through trials and tribulations. He proclaims that this church is not alone, not only is God present, but they are surrounded by all those who have gone before. Communion will be served.

**OUR CHURCH OFFICE CONTINUES TO BE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:** Pastor Enno and Office Manager, Nancy Backlund, are in the building at unscheduled times. For pastoral emergencies, please contact our new Settled Pastor, Rev. Enno Limvere at (605) 460-0330.

**FOLLOW US ON:**

Facebook – First Congregational UCC Grand Marais.  
Instagram - Grandmaraisucc  
Website - [grandmaraisucc.org](http://grandmaraisucc.org)



**FOOD SHELF:** The Food Shelf is distributing food each Monday, from 3:00-5:00 pm, also on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, 4:30-6:30 pm, downstairs in our church building. You can support their work by sending your checks to Food Shelf, P.O. Box 51, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

**GIVING DURING THIS TIME OF SUSPENDED SERVICES AND PROGRAMS:** It is tremendously heartening, for both your church staff and church lay leaders, to see such generous giving continuing during this time. Your on-going support of our ministries are especially important now. We encourage each of you to find ways to continue to support our ministries. continuing to give to our church by:

1. Download the “VANCO” mobile app on your smartphone, to give with your credit card on-line. Enter our church name or 55604 zip code, then choose our church account. This is a program of VANCO, with whom we already have a contract for such transactions.
2. Contact Kevin LeVoir, our Treasurer, about automatic deposit from your personal bank account, at [krlevoir@aol.com](mailto:krlevoir@aol.com).
3. Send a check in the US mail! P.O. Box 95, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

We extend a warm welcome to all who may be worshipping with us for the first time. If you would like more information about our ministries, contact Pastor Enno at [ennotherev@gmail.com](mailto:ennotherev@gmail.com) or 605-460-0330.

We are a progressive Christian congregation, with roots in the New England Congregational tradition and now are part of the wider denomination of the United Church of Christ. As a Just Peace Church, and welcoming of the LGBTQIA2+ community, we seek to provide a spiritual home for seekers of all ages and backgrounds. Please know that wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you in our congregation.

**Purpose and Mission** First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open, inclusive church that exists to worship God and practice the gospel of Jesus Christ. We welcome all people of goodwill who seek to share the love of God and honor the diversity of creation in a spirit of tolerance and flexibility. As a Just Peace Church, we invite all who seek the reign of God to join us in reaching out in healing ministry, working for justice, witnessing for peace and striving to overcome all forms of oppression. We recognize two sacraments: Baptism and Communion