



First Congregational United Church of Christ

October 22, 2023

grandmaraisucc.org // (218) 387-2113

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Partners in Ministry: All who are a part of this church.

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Chandler Litterst Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Liturgist:

Greeter: Usher:

Coffee-Hour Host:

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Psalm 1)

People who work for peace: **Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on the covenant, they meditate day and night.**

People who pray for justice: **They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all they do, they prosper.**

People who show compassion: **The way of the wicked is not so but is like chaff that the wind drives away.**

People who love their neighbor: **Therefore, the way of the wicked will not stand in judgment, for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Opening Hymn #8 Praise to the Living God ([click here](#))

Words of Lament

God of Spirit, God of Life, we come to you with heavy hearts with all the loss of life in our world happening around us, all the acts of violence happening around us, and all the rhetoric of vengeance, separation, and hatred happening around us. God of Spirit and God of Life, awaken the world to your steadfast love that lasts forever, to your compassion for all human beings and families, and to your call for peace in your world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Time of Silence

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 peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

THIS DAY THERE IS NO SUN

A poem by Lesaann Foris

THIS DAY THERE IS NO SUN, NO SNOW, JUST DARK SKIES
SOME PEOPLE ARE SAD AND SOME ARE TOO BUSY TO CARE
CHANGES CONTINUE PAST THE SUNSET BUT WHY CAN'T WE
ALL SEE THE BEAUTY

DEALING WITH LOSS, OH THE ONGOING LOSS WE CAN'T
FORGET DEEP WITHIN
MISSING MOMENTS AND ALL THOSE MISSING MEMORIES.

THE SKY IS STILL DARK, BUT YET THEY ARE NOW VISIBLE,
EMOTIONS ARE SOARING INTO THE NIGHT SKY BRINGING THE
MOONLIGHT STARS DANCING AND URGING LOVE AND POSSIBLE
REDEMPTION

ALWAYS URGING IS THE STILL MOON AND SKY FULL OF STARS
THAT ARE ALWAYS SO BRIGHT AND STEADFAST

THE CONSTANCY OF THE LIGHT IS ALWAYS URGING FOR US ALL
TO SEE THE LIGHT

Continued on Next Page.

THE LIGHT THAT IS FULL OF LOVE AND FORGIVENESS
WHY CAN'T WE ALL SEE THE LIGHT
CAN WE FORGIVE AND FORGET MOVING FORWARD WITH ALL THE
LESSONS LEARNED

THE PAIN IS LESSONING, I CAN STILL SEE THAT WE CAN ALL MOVE
PAST THE ANGER, THE RACISM, THE HATRED THAT WE SEE DAILY

THE STARS ARE THE BRIGHTEST THEY'VE EVEN BEEN
CAN WE SEE AND FEEL THE LIGHT AND SEE THE
COMPASSION AND FORGIVENESS

LETTING GO THE DARKNESS AND SEARCHING ONWARDS AND
UPWARDS TO THE EVER-LASTING LIGHT AND LOVE



Passing of the Peace

Hymn Let Us Pray ([click here](#))

Scripture Reading (1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29 (New Revised Standard Version Updated))

12 Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. 2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam remained in Egypt. 3 And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, 4 “Your father made our yoke heavy. Now, therefore, lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke that he placed on us, and we will serve you.” 5 He said to them, “Go away for three days, then come again to me.” So the people went away.

6 Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the older men who had attended his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?” 7 They answered him, “If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.” 8 But he disregarded the advice that the older men gave him and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and now attended him. 9 He said to them, “What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us?’” 10 The young men who had grown up with him said to him, “Thus you should say to this people who spoke to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you must lighten it for us’; thus you should say to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s loins. 11 Now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’ ”

12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had said, “Come to me again the third day.” 13 The king answered the people harshly. He disregarded the advice that the older men had given him 14 and spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.” 15 So the king did not listen to the people because it was a turn of affairs brought about by the Lord to fulfill his word that the Lord had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat.

Continued on Next Page.

16 When all Israel saw that the king would not listen to them, the people answered the king,

“What share do we have in David?
We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse.
To your tents, O Israel!
Look now to your own house, O David.”

So Israel went away to their tents. 17 But Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah.

25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and resided there; he went out from there and built Penuel. 26 Then Jeroboam said to himself, “Now the kingdom may well revert to the house of David. 27 If this people continues to go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, the heart of this people will turn again to their master, King Rehoboam of Judah; they will kill me and return to King Rehoboam of Judah.” 28 So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. He said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” 29 He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

Children’s Message Listening to our Elders

Choir Anthem

Message Pester the Pastor

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

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

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

Closing Hymn #575 O For a World ([click here](#))

Benediction

Sending Music



First Congregational United Church of Christ

300 West 2nd Street

P.O. Box 95

Grand Marais, Minnesota 55604

grandmaraisucc.org // (218) 387-2113 // office@grandmaraisucc.org

Opening Hymn #8: Praise to the Living God

1. Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

2. Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

3. Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

4. Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

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Tune: George J. Elvey, 1868..

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Hymn: Let Us Pray

Chorus: How should we pray to the Lord our God?
Always in all ways
How should we pray to the Lord our God.
Always in all ways

1. We pray when we wake, when we eat, when we rest.
We pray when we work when we pray it's the best.
God's our creator, we give our praise.
We're silent, we're signing through all of our days.
2. The church is the body through which we all pray.
We cherish each other and gather Sunday.
the body of Christ, we live out our faith
Each day-ay of the week, we carry God's grace.
3. The Spirit intercedes when it's too deep for words.
Our prayers carry us forward beyond what is heard.
W'live in God's presence each moment we breathe.
So let us be thankful for what we believe.
4. We're joyful we're mournful we're we're angry, we're mad.
Jesus is with us, the best friend we have.
We open our minds, God does plant the seed,
o to nourish our hearts, its prayer that we need.

*By Rev. Enno K. Limvere
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Closing Hymn #575: O For a World

1. O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.
2. O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.
3. We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.
5. O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

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