



# First Congregational United Church of Christ November 12 , 2023

[grandmaraisucc.org](http://grandmaraisucc.org) // (218) 387-2113

300 West 2nd Street  
Grand Marais, MN 55604



## 24th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Ben Nichols    Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter:    Liturgist: Carol Winter

Greeter: Steve A.    Usher: Barbara Chiles

Coffee-Hour Host: Ann Russ

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Gathering Music  
Words of Welcome  
Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (based on Psalm 78)

*One:* **1** Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
**2** I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

*Many:* **3 things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.**  
**4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and God's might and the wonders that were done.**

*One:* **5** God established a decree in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which were commanded our ancestors to teach to their children,  
**6** that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

*Many:* **7 so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep the commandments;**  
**8 and that they should not be like their ancestors, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.**

Opening Hymn Kindom of God ([click here](#))

Words of Lament

Almighty God, we come with sadness and bewilderment in the actions around the world of violence and denial of human suffering.

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.

“God our Mother” by Allison Woodard

To be a Mother is to suffer;  
To travail in the dark,  
stretched and torn,  
exposed in half-naked humiliation,  
subjected to indignities  
for the sake of new life.

To be a Mother is to say,  
“This is my body, broken for you,”  
And, in the next instant, in response to the  
created's primal hunger,  
“This is my body, take and eat.”

To be a Mother is to self-empty,  
To neither slumber nor sleep,  
so attuned You are to cries in the night—  
Offering the comfort of Yourself,  
and assurances of “I'm here.”

To be a Mother is to weep  
over the fighting and exclusions and wounds

your children inflict on one another;  
To long for reconciliation and brotherly love  
and—when all is said and done—  
To gather all parties, the offender and the  
offended,  
into the folds of your embrace  
and to whisper in their ears  
that they are Beloved.

To be a mother is to be vulnerable—  
To be misunderstood,  
Railed against,  
Blamed  
For the heartaches of the bewildered  
children  
who don't know where else to cast  
the angst they feel  
over their own existence  
in this perplexing universe

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To be a mother is to hoist onto your hips  
those on whom your image is imprinted,  
bearing the burden of their weight,  
rejoicing in their returned affection,  
delighting in their wonder,  
bleeding in the presence of their pain.

To be a mother is to be accused of  
sentimentality one moment,  
And injustice the next.  
To be the Receiver of endless demands,  
Absorber of perpetual complaints,  
Reckoner of bottomless needs.

To be a mother is to be an artist;  
A keeper of memories past,  
Weaver of stories untold,  
Visionary of lives looming ahead.

To be a mother is to be the first voice  
listened to,  
And the first disregarded;  
To be a Mender of broken creations,  
And Comforter of the distraught children  
whose hands wrought them.

To be a mother is to be a Touchstone  
and the Source,  
Bestower of names,  
Influencer of identities;  
Life giver,  
Life shaper,  
Empath,  
Healer,  
and  
Original Love.

### Passing of the Peace

**Scripture Reading** Hosea 11:1-9

**1** When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

**2** The more I called them, the more they went from me;  
they kept sacrificing to the Ba'als and offering incense to idols.

**3** Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up in my arms,  
but they did not know that I healed them.

**4** I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love.  
I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks.  
I bent down to them and fed them.

**5** They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king,  
because they have refused to return to me.

**6** The sword rages in their cities; it consumes their oracle priests  
and devours because of their schemes.

**7** My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call,  
but he does not raise them up at all.

**8** How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel?  
How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim?  
My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

**9** I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim,  
for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

**Children's Message** Love like a mother

**Choir Anthem**

**Message** With Bands of Love

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## Musical Reflections

**Communion Hymn #330** Let us Break Bread Together ([click here](#))

**Communion Liturgy** (see insert)

## 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 #467** Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth ([click here](#))

### Benediction

### Sending Music



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## Opening Hymn Kindom of God

1. Do you know how loved you are?  
You are God's own Shining star.  
All the parts that make you whole.  
Shine your light your love your soul

*Refrain:* The kindom of God starts with family.  
It includes you, it includes me.  
Without you we cannot be,  
fully wholly Christ's body.

2. Do you know how good you are?  
God has filled with love your heart.  
Also joy, peace, gentleness.  
Helping you to live your best.

3. Do you know what joy you bring?  
Hugging you makes my heart sing.  
Open hearts, and mind and soul.  
Showing love's healthy and whole.

4. Do you know you're welcome here?  
Gay or straight, transgendered, queer  
Your identity is blessed.  
God's diversity enfleshed.

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## Communion Hymn #330 Let us Break Bread Together

1. Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.

*Refrain:* When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees.

3. Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees.

*African-American spiritual  
Harm. David Hurd, 1983  
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## Closing Hymn #467 Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

1. Mothering God, you gave me birth  
in the bright morning of this world.  
Creator, Source of every breath,  
you are my rain, my wind, my sun;  
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
2. Mothering Christ, you took my form,  
offering me food of light,  
Grain . . . of life, and grape of love,  
your very body for my peace;  
your very body for my peace.
3. Mothering Spirit, nurturing One,  
in arms of patience hold me close,  
So that in faith I root and grow  
until I flower, until I know;  
until I flower, until I know.

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