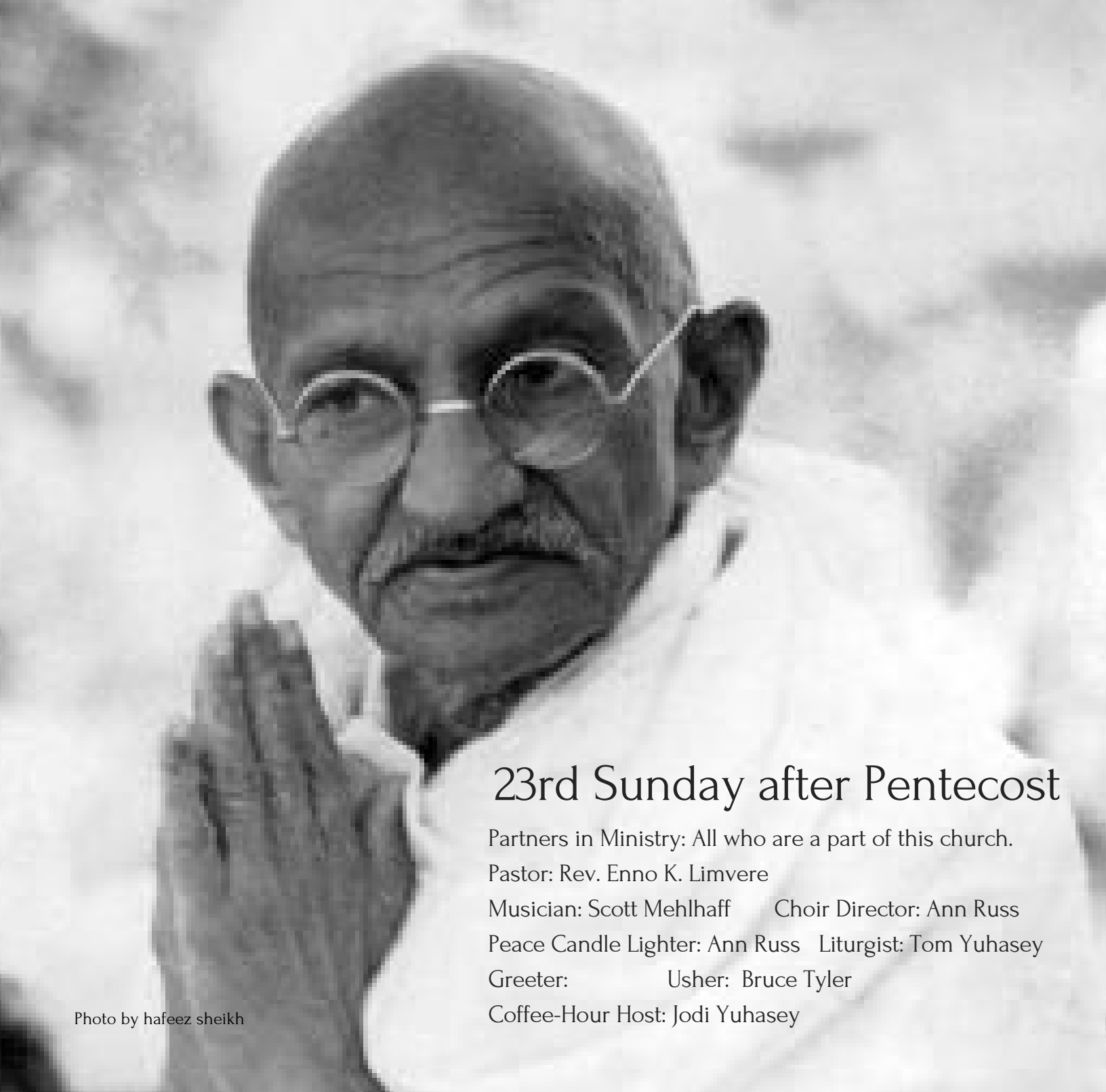




First Congregational United Church of Christ

November 5, 2023

grandmaraisucc.org // (218) 387-2113



23rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Scott Mehlhaff Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Ann Russ Liturgist: Tom Yuhasey

Greeter: Usher: Bruce Tyler

Coffee-Hour Host: Jodi Yuhasey

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (based on Psalm 42)

People who sing: **As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?**

People who listen: **These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and lead them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.**

People who play: **Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise God, my help and my God.**

People who create: **Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise my help and my God.**

Opening Hymn #571 O God of Love, O God of Peace ([click here](#))

Words of Lament

Merciful God, hear our plea...

Almighty God, hear our plea...

Eternal God, grant those in harm's way peace...

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.

Remembering those we love and lost

by Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Pictures, I need pictures, to remember their face,
Stories, I need context, to put them into place,
Feelings, abundant, these never seem to run out,
Time, as it progresses on, "Stop!" I want to shout.

Holes, inside of me, and all around,
Sorrow, pours out, and pulls me down,
People, new I meet, and they will never know,
My loved ones, who went before they showed.

Waiting, for me, to see them again,
Hope, that they are truly, just around the bend,
Love, which flows, and sustains each breath I take,
Healing, in this life, in the next, lessens my heart's ache. .

Passing of the Peace

Remembering the Saints

One: Let us gather, Friends, with the Saints in Light:

**Many: Who live to praise and glorify God,
The One who promises comfort to all who grieve.**

Lighting the Candles and naming those who have died this past year.

**Sovereign of Creation,
all that we have comes from you.
Physically distanced, we gather in your presence,
surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
people from every tribe and nation,
every kindred and tongue,
to lift our voices in praise,
to be transformed into your saints,
to be sent out to gather others to share the eternal banquet.
Hear the praise we offer,
work in us and through us.
You alone are holy,
you alone are the Most High,
you alone are worthy of our praise.
Glory to you O God,
and to the Lamb, our Shepherd,
and to the Spirit that unites us all,
today and ever more.
Amen.**

Hymn #299 For All the Saints ([click here](#))

Scripture Reading (I Kings 18:17-39)

17 When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" 18 He answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. 19 Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table."

20 So Ahab sent to all the Israelites and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah then came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him, but if Baal, then follow him." The people did not answer him a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets number four hundred fifty. 23 Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it. 24 Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God." All the people answered, "Well spoken!" 25 Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it." 26 So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. 27 At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." 28 Then they cried aloud, and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. 29 As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come closer to me," and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; 31 Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, "Israel shall be your name"; 32 with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. 33 Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." 34 Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time. Again he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time, 35 so that the water ran all around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

36 At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. 37 Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have turned their hearts back." 38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust and even licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God."

Children's Message False Prophets

Choir Anthem "If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers" (Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

Message "That you have turned their hearts back"

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 #451 Be Now My Vision ([click here](#))

Benediction

Sending Music



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Opening Hymn #571 O God of Love, O God of Peace

1. O God of love, O God of peace,
make wars throughout the world to cease;
The wrath of human wrong restrain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

2. Remember, God, your works of old,
the wonders that our people told;
Heal every malice, harm, and pain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

3. Whom shall we trust, O God, but you?
For you are constant, strong, and true.
None ever called on you in vain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

Words, Henry W. Baker, 1861; alt.

Tune, Henry W. Baker, 1854..

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Hymn #299 For All the Saints

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. You were their rock, their refuge, and their might:
you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,
live as they saints who nobly fought of old,
and share with them a glorious crown of gold.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

5. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Words, William W. How, 1864; alt.
Music, Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906.
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From the English Hymnal 1906.t
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Closing Hymn #451 Be Now My Vision

1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart-
You my best though, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.
2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
now and forever your child I will be.
3. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure may never part.
4. Sovereign of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905

Versified by Eleanor h. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Traditional Irish Melody

Harm. David Evans, 1927.

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