



# First Congregational United Church of Christ January 21, 2024



## 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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

Pastor: **Rev. Enno K. Limvere**

Musician: **John Kerns** Choir Director: **Ann Russ**

Peace Poem: **Jodi Yuhasey** Liturgist: **Tom Yuhasey**

Greeter: Usher: **Bruce Tyler**

Coffee-Hour Host: **Borealis Cookies**

Jesus, the Gerasene, and the Unclean Spirits by Luke the Cypriot 1594

[grandmaraisucc.org](http://grandmaraisucc.org) ~ (218) 387-2113  
300 West 2nd Street, Grand Marais, MN 55604

**Gathering Music** Baptized on New Year's Eve (John Kerns)

**Words of Welcome**

**Prelude** You Arrived (John Kerns)

**Words to Enter Worship (Based on Psalm 89)**

*People who who experienced isolation:* **Forever I will sing the wonders of your love, O LORD, proclaiming your faithfulness to all generations. I'll tell them that your love stands firm forever.**

*People who experienced depression:* **"I have made a covenant with my chosen; sworn an oath to David, my faithful one: 'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm throughout all generations.'"**

*People who experienced shunning:* **The heaves praise your wonders, O LORD, and the council of the holy ones declares your fidelity. Who in the skies can be compared to you, O LORD?**

*People who have loved ones with mental illness:* **You rule the surging sea, calming the turmoil of its waves. The heavens are yours, and so is the earth – you established the world and all it contains.**

**Opening Hymn** Earth and All Stars (Herb Brokering and David Johnson)

**VERSE 1**

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets  
Sing to our God a new song  
Oh victory! Loud shouting army  
Sing to our God a new song

**REFRAIN**

God has done marvelous things  
I, too, will praise God with a new song

**VERSE 2**

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snow  
storm  
Sing to our God a new song  
Flowers and trees! Loud rustling dry  
leaves  
Sing to our God a new song

**REFRAIN**

**VERSE 3**

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing  
cymbals  
Sing to our God a new song  
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming  
cellos  
Sing to our God a new song

**REFRAIN**

**VERSE 4**

Engines and steel! Loud pounding  
hammers  
Sing to our God a new song  
Limestone and beams! Loud building  
workers  
Sing to our God a new song

**REFRAIN**

**VERSE 5**

Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test  
tubes  
Sing to our God a new song  
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people  
Sing to our God a new song

**REFRAIN**

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## Words of Lament

God who desires for all to be healthy and whole, there are many things we could be doing as families, communities, faith groups, and government to make sure all have healthcare, food, and a place to live. There are many in every society who suffer alone. Stir us, God of Life, stir us and open our ears and hearts to the cries of those who suffer and offer real solutions to them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Passing of the Peace

**Hymn** Your Misfortune (Mike Doughty & Dan Wilson)

### Verse 1

When your faith in life is gone  
Come and speak to me  
When you're down and all messed up  
Seek my sympathy

### Prechorus

When everybody says no, no, no, well it's  
Your misfortune and none of my own  
Wrong, wrong, wrong, well it's  
Your misfortune that sweetens my song

### Chorus 1

I can be the friend you want  
I can be your confidante  
I can be the right reminder at the right  
time  
Throwing out the lifeline  
Stand in the light, stand in the light,  
stand in the light  
Stand in the light, stand in the light,  
stand in the light

### Verse 2

When your face is caked with mud  
Come and speak to me  
When the chill creeps in your blood  
Seek my sympathy

### Prechorus

When everybody says no, no, no, well it's  
Your misfortune and none of my own  
Wrong, wrong, wrong, well it's  
Your misfortune that sweetens my song

### Chorus 2

I can be the air you drink  
Every single thought you think  
I can be the right notion in the meantime  
Warm you like the sunshine  
Stand in the light, stand in the light,  
stand in the light  
Stand in the light, stand in the light,  
stand in the light

## Scripture Readings Mark 5:1-20 (Common English Bible)

**5** Jesus and his disciples came to the other side of the lake, to the region of the Gerasenes. **2** As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out of the tombs. **3** This man lived among the tombs, and no one was ever strong enough to restrain him, even with a chain. **4** He had been secured many times with leg irons and chains, but he broke the chains and smashed the leg irons. No one was tough enough to control him. **5** Night and day in the tombs and the hills, he would howl and cut himself with stones. **6** When he saw Jesus from far away, he ran and knelt before him, **7** shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!"

*Continued on next page.*

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**8** He said this because Jesus had already commanded him, “Unclean spirit, come out of the man!”

**9** Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

He responded, “Legion is my name, because we are many.” **10** They pleaded with Jesus not to send them out of that region.

**11** A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. **12** “Send us into the pigs!” they begged. “Let us go into the pigs!” **13** Jesus gave them permission, so the unclean spirits left the man and went into the pigs. Then the herd of about two thousand pigs rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

**14** Those who tended the pigs ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside. People came to see what had happened. **15** They came to Jesus and saw the man who used to be demon-possessed. They saw the very man who had been filled with many demons sitting there fully dressed and completely sane, and they were filled with awe. **16** Those who had actually seen what had happened to the demon-possessed man told the others about the pigs. **17** Then they pleaded with Jesus to leave their region.

**18** While he was climbing into the boat, the one who had been demon-possessed pleaded with Jesus to let him come along as one of his disciples. **19** But Jesus wouldn’t allow it. “Go home to your own people,” Jesus said, “and tell them what the Lord has done for you and how he has shown you mercy.” **20** The man went away and began to proclaim in the Ten Cities all that Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

**Children’s Message** Kicked Out

**Choir Anthem**

**Message** Demons and Isolation

**Musical Reflections**

**Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours 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*

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**Closing Hymn** Grace Like Rain (T. Agnew, C. Collins, E. O Excell, J. Newton)

**Verse 1**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see so clearly

**Chorus**

Hallelujah grace like rain, falls down on  
me  
Hallelujah all my stains are washed  
away, they're washed away

**Verse 2**

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear,  
the hour I first believed

**Chorus**

**Verse 3**

When we've been there ten thousand  
years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing your praise  
Then we, we first begun

**Chorus x2**

**TAG**

Hallelujah  
Hallelujah  
Hallelujah  
Hallelujah all my stains are washed  
away, they're washed away

**Benediction**  
**Sending Music**



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY,  
LOIS!!!

# Announcements



**Prayer List:** The Family of Bob Lohn, The Family of Nancy Cihlar, Rhonda Silence, The Family of Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, The Carter Family, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Congo Ukraine, Sudan, Isreal/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

**At home and Care Center:** Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, and Tom Hedstrom.

## Measure of our Faithfulness:

The First Congregational UCC will adopt a 2024 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2024.

After the first two weeks of January 2024, the Actual Donations and income have been \$10, 488.86.

-Kevin R. LeVoir, Treasurer

**Notice of 2024 Annual Meeting:** We will hold our annual Meeting on January 28, 2024 following the 10:30 AM worship service at First Congregational Church.

## This Week at the Church

### **Sunday, January 21**

**No Choir Practice**

10:30 AM - **3rd Sunday after Epiphany.** Jesus in his travels goes across the Sea of Galilee to preach and heal to the Gentile (non-Jewish) people. He finds a man possessed, who is shackled and kept away from everybody else. He returns this man to himself healthy and whole. The people who are used to blaming him for all that is wrong, now have a hard time accepting that he can change.

Fellowship to Follow

### **Monday, January 22**

11:00 AM - Spring Forest Qigong  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons  
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Food Shelf  
Al-Anon is taking a break until March

### **Tuesday, January 23**

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons  
4:00 PM - Chaplain's meal with the Sheriff's Staff

### **Wednesday, January 24**

1:00 - 4:00 PM - Fellowship Hall in Use  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons  
6:00 PM - Confirmation

### **Thursday, January 25**

10:00 AM - Tai Chi  
12:00 PM - Women's AA  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons  
4:00 PM - Pastor Relations Committee  
5:00 PM - Library Board of Trustees  
6:00 New Members Orientation Click [HERE](#) for link.

### **Friday, January 26**

7:00 AM - AA  
8:00 AM - Harbor Watch  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons  
7:30 PM - AA

### **Saturday, January 27**

11:00 AM - Funeral for Nancy Cihlar, luncheon to follow  
4:00 - 6:00 PM - the Blanket Experience, Shared Meal, and Community.

### **Sunday, January 28**

9:30 AM – Choir Practice  
10:30 AM – **4th Sunday after Epiphany.** This is a story of healing that involved a woman who has been ill for 12 years and a young girl who is 12 years old who is at the point of death. The story also is about how the world then dealt with illness and death.  
11:15 AM – Winter Annual Meeting