

**Welcome!** The mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is to: Live by faith, embody love, proclaim hope, and seek justice. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God's presence among us. When the Friendship Folder is passed during the announcements, please sign it, and then pass it back across the pew to the inside aisle.

**All are welcome.** Jesus called us to welcome all into the family of God. We welcome you to our Fellowship Hour after worship in the Community Room where everyone is invited to enjoy conversation and refreshments. A bathroom for all genders is located off the kitchen connected to the Community Room.

**Children are welcome in worship!** Activity bags are available in the narthex. There is an area for parents and children at the front of the nave which allows children to be close to the action in worship. Our staffed nursery (downstairs) is an option as well. Our kids are invited to go to their classrooms after the kids' message.



**Please ask an usher** if you would like a large print bulletin, or if you need directions or any other assistance. A Hearing Loop system is available. Turn your hearing device to the "T" setting.

### Serving in Worship Today

Leading Worship	Laura Wright
Sermon & Conversation	Shelby Webb
Choir Director and Organist	
Reading Scripture	Jean Feeney
Head Usher	<del>_</del>
Usher	
Greeter	
Nursery	Zali Stanton
Fellowship Hour	Missions and Social Justice

<sup>\*</sup> In the order of service indicates all who are able, please stand.

#### Gathering Music

"Variants on 'Now the Green Blade Riseth'"

Robert Lau

#### Welcome and Announcements

Thank you for joining us this Sunday where all are welcome. You are invited to pass the Friendship Folder through your row and share your name. Pass the folder back down the row and take note of those worshipping with you.

#### Prelude Music

"Let All Things Now Living"

The Bell Choir Arr. by Sandra Eithun

#### \*Call to Worship

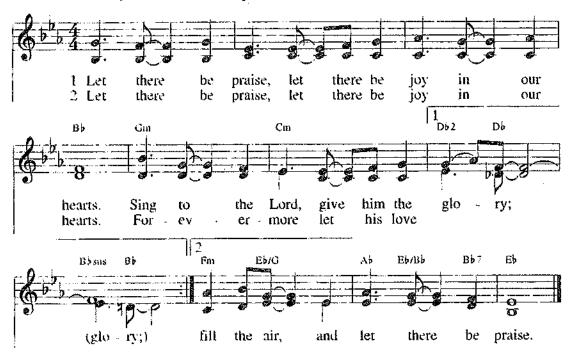
One: Come, all who are weary - in body, mind, or spirit.

Many: Come, all who carry silent burdens or loud thoughts.

One: Come, not because you have it all together,

but because you are held by the One who does.

All:



#### Moment of Silence

Take this moment of silence to be still and listen for God.

Need

#### \*Sharing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Please greet those near you with a wave or bow and with words such as:

"Peace be with you. / And also with you."

## **&** Listening

for the Still-speaking God

#### The Word for Children

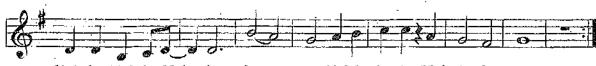
Children will join the pastor in the center aisle as we walk forward for the Word for Children. Kids will go to their JAM classrooms after the kids' message concludes and the congregation sings.

Acclamation (Sung by all.)

Halleluja

All:





fial-le-Hal-le-Hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le-lu-ja.

#### The First Lesson

Jean Feeney

1 Samuel 16:14-23

#### The Psalter

Psalm 88:1-9 (Read Responsively)

One: O LORD, God of my salvation,

when, at night, I cry out in your presence,

Many: let my prayer come before you;

incline your ear to my cry.

One: For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.

Many: I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help,

One: like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave,

Many: I am like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

One: You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep.

Many: Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

One: You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a thing of horror to them.

Many: I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow.

One: Every day I call on you, O LORD; I spread out my hands to you.

#### The Gospel

John 13:31-35

#### Sermon through Conversation

"You Are Not Alone: God Is Near & So Is God's People

Shelby Webb with Laura Wright

## **®** Responding

with the voice of hope

\*Anthem

"Shepherd Me, O God"

The Sanctuary Choir Marty Haugen

### The Community Invited into Prayer

Prayers of the Church

The petitions end with: God, in our stillness, The people respond: hear our prayers.

The Prayer of Jesus (Said by all. Use language that reflects your view of God.)

Our (Father / Mother / Creator) 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,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

## **20** Thanksgiving

for the gifts of God

Stories of Generosity

Board Member of NAMI

Music at the Offertory

"For Good"

Miya Servais and Katie Berkedal, Duet Stephen Schwartz

\*As the Gifts Are Presented: Sing to the tune of Old 100th (Hymn 34).

(All who are able are invited to stand and sing.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Praise God, for all that love has done, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

## 80 Going

to be messengers of good news

\*Hymn 68 (All join in singing the hymns.)

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

*Nettleton* 

#### \*The Blessing

#### Postlude Music

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

The Bell Choir Arr. by Lloyd Larson

Acknowledgements: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," words and music in the public domain. "I Need Thee Every Hour" words and music in the public domain. Hymns and service music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014.

Cover Image: The image on the cover was used with permission based on our subscription to canva.com.

# Flowers today are given by Nancy Burgett in honor of all Mothers.

First Congregational UCC Ministry Team			
All the Members	Ministers		
Rev. Dr. Laura Wright	Senior Pastor		
Rev. Mary Runyon			
Nancy Allen	Organist & Choir Director		
Sue Retzlaff	Bell Choir Director		
Michelle Logan	Office Manager		
Contact Information: First Congregational UCC, 2503 Main Street, La Crosse, WI 54601, 608-784-8137 or office@firstcongolax.org, or visit us on the web at <a href="https://www.firstcongolax.org">www.firstcongolax.org</a> .			
What gifts did you give God th	nis week?		

Do you mind if we share your gift to God with the congregation? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

This Week in our Church:			
Sunday, May 11 Mother's Day New Member Sunday		Thursday, May 15 Greeting Deadline Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
Worship w/JAM & Nursery Fellowship (CR)	10:00 am 11:00 am	Friday, May 16 Office Closed	•
Monday, May 12		Bell Choir (CR)	10:30 am
Monday Meals	2:00 pm	Saturday, May 17	
Tuesday, May 13		Lorraine McIlraith Memorial	1:00 pm
Alternative Energy Task Force (L) Creation Care Team (Zoom)	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Sunday, May 18	0:00 am
Wednesday, May 14		Faith Forum: Good Energy (C) Worship w/JAM & Nursery	9:00 am 10:00 am
Sip & Scripture (Ardie's Flipside)	10:00 am)	Fellowship (CR)	11:00 am
		WISE Committee (C)	11:00 am
		Sunday Funday at Riverside Amus	ements
CALE	NDAR KEY		5:00 pm
CR = Community Room, C = Chapel, L = Lounge, N = Narthex, S = Sanctuary, J = JAM Rooms		าร	



# Would You Like to Reserve a Date on the Altar Flower Calendar?

We invite you to help beautify our worship space by signing up to provide altar flowers. This is a lovely way to honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or simply give thanks.

#### **Available Dates:**

September: 28

October: 26November: 9

December: 14 & 21

Cost: \$45 per arrangement

Please make checks payable to the church with "Altar Flowers" in the memo line.

#### To reserve a date:

- Contact Sue Heuer at 608-526-9397 / 608-769-3209 or fredsue45@gmail.com
- Or contact Michelle at (608) 784-8137 / office@firstcongolax.org
- Or sign up in person on the sheet in the Narthex (on the ledge)

Thank you for your generosity and for helping to enhance our worship with the beauty of flowers!



The white rose on the altar is in memory of Loyce Key, mother of Pastor Mary Runyon. We give thanks for her life and trust in the promise of eternal rest. Rest with the Lord, Loyce.