



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 25, 2025

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 will remain with their families on this holiday weekend.



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
Leading Worship.....	Mary Runyon
Choir Director and Organist.....	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Sherry Sawle
Head Usher	Randy Breeser
Ushers	Diane Breeser
Nursery	Zali Stanton
Fellowship Hour	Missions and Social Justice

* In the order of service indicates all who are able, please stand.

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"Blessed Assurance"

Arr. by Phoebe Knapp

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

Arr. by Marilyn Hamm

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

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Arr. by Shackley

*Call to Worship

Inspired by Acts 16

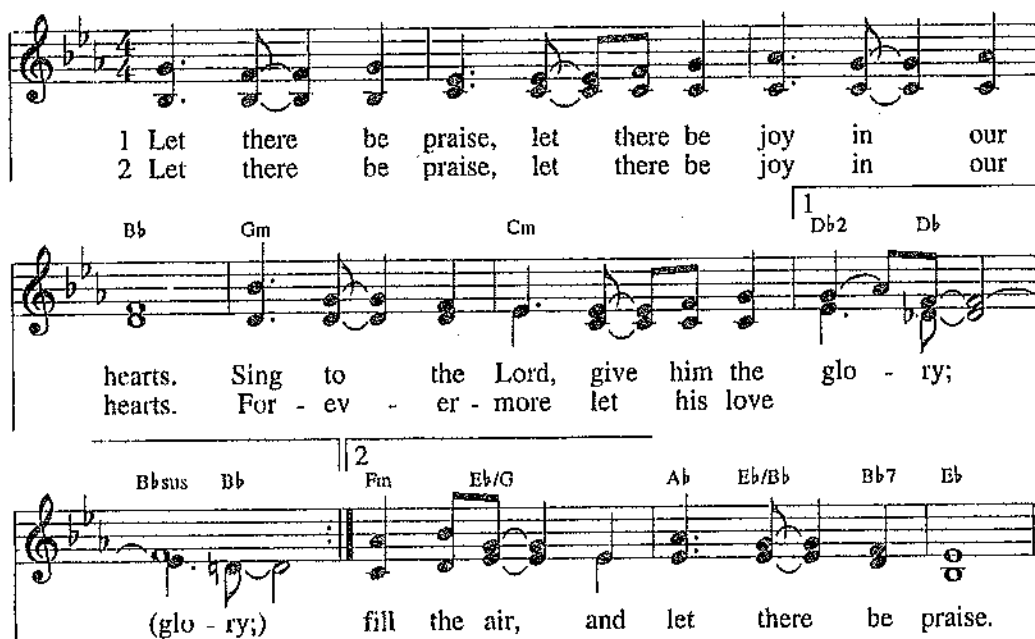
One: Come, people of God, let us gather —
listening for the Spirit who is still speaking.

Many: **We come, open to go to new places when God calls.**

One: Just as Paul saw a vision and crossed the sea,
God calls us to unexpected places.

All: **We come, open to be surprised by the Spirit.**

One: Let us sing to the God who makes all things new:



1 Let there be praise, let there be joy in our
2 Let there be praise, let there be joy in our

B \flat Gm Cm 1 D \flat 2 D \flat

hearts. Sing to the Lord, give him the glo - ry;
hearts. For - ev - er - more let his love

2 Bbsus B \flat Fm Eb/G A \flat Eb/B \flat B \flat 7 E \flat

(glo - ry;) fill the air, and let there be praise.

Moment of Silence

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

*Hymn 134 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

*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

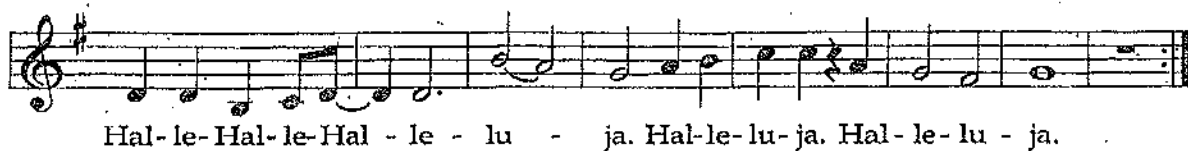
The Word for Children

Children will join the pastor in the center aisle as we walk forward for the Word for Children. On this holiday weekend, kids will remain with their families after the congregation sings.

Acclamation *(Sung by all.)*

Halleluja

All:



The First Lesson

Acts 16:9-15

Sherry Sawle

The Psalter

Psalm 67 *(Read Responsively)*

One: May God be gracious to us and bless us.

Many: May God make the divine face shine upon us

One: that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

Many: **Let the peoples praise you, O God;**

One: let all the peoples praise you.

Many: **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,**

One: for you judge the peoples with equity,

Many: **and you guide the nations on the earth.**

One: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Many: **Let all the peoples praise you.**

One: The earth has yielded its increase;

Many: **God, our God, has blessed us.**

One: May God continue to bless us;

Many: **let all the ends of the earth revere him.**

The Gospel

John 5:1-9

Sermon

"When God Changes Your Travel Plans"

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright

Responding

with the voice of hope

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.

Thanksgiving

for the gifts of God

Stories of Generosity

Diane Breeser, ReproEco Play

Music at the Offertory

"Jesus Is All the World to Me"

Arr. by Kim Williams

*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

Going

to be messengers of good news

*Hymn 560 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Hankey

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"Soon and Very Soon"

Arr. by Schrader

Acknowledgements: “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit,” words and music © 1962, Ren. 1990 Manna Music, Inc. “I Love to Tell the Story,” words and music in the public domain. Hymns and service music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014.

Cover Image: The cover of today’s order of worship is an image of shells used in ancient cloth production to produce purple. Lydia, the character in today’s story from Acts, is a maker of purple cloth when she becomes a follower of the Way.

*Flowers today are given by the family of Joe and Dawn Kay
in honor of all graduates.*

First Congregational UCC Ministry Team

All the Members.....Ministers
Rev. Dr. Laura Wright.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Mary Runyon.....Associate Minister of Faith Formation
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 www.firstcongolax.org.

What gifts did you give God this week?

Do you mind if we share your gift to God with the
congregation? Yes_____ No_____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week in our Church:

Sunday, May 25

Noisy Offering

Worship w/Nursery

Fellowship (CR)

10:00 am

11:00 am

Monday, May 26

Office Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 27

Coffee Klatch @ Havenwood

2:00 pm

Christian Education Meeting (Zoom)

7:15 pm

Wednesday, May 28

Sip & Scripture (Cancelled)

Friday, May 30

Office Closed

Sunday, June 1

WAFER Sunday

Worship w/Communion & Nursery

10:00 am

Fellowship (CR)

11:00 am

Communion (L)

11:00 am

Mission & Social Justice Meeting (c)

11:00 am

CALENDAR KEY

CR = Community Room, C = Chapel, L = Lounge, N = Narthex, S = Sanctuary, J = JAM Rooms

🎵 **Calling all future stars of the choral world** 🎵
Come join the First Congregational Kids Choir!



Kids (rising Kindergarten to 4th grade) will gather in the Sanctuary from 5:00 pm to 5:25 pm on three days (Tuesday, June 24; Wednesday, June 25, and Thursday, June 26) to practice. While kids practice their do-re-mi's, their grown-ups and younger siblings get snacks. Each singer is asked to attend at least two of the three practices. The choir will then share in worship on Sunday, June 29th. Feel free to bring a friend or three to sing! Sign-up in the Narthex on the stone ledge.

Let's Make a Joyful Noise!.