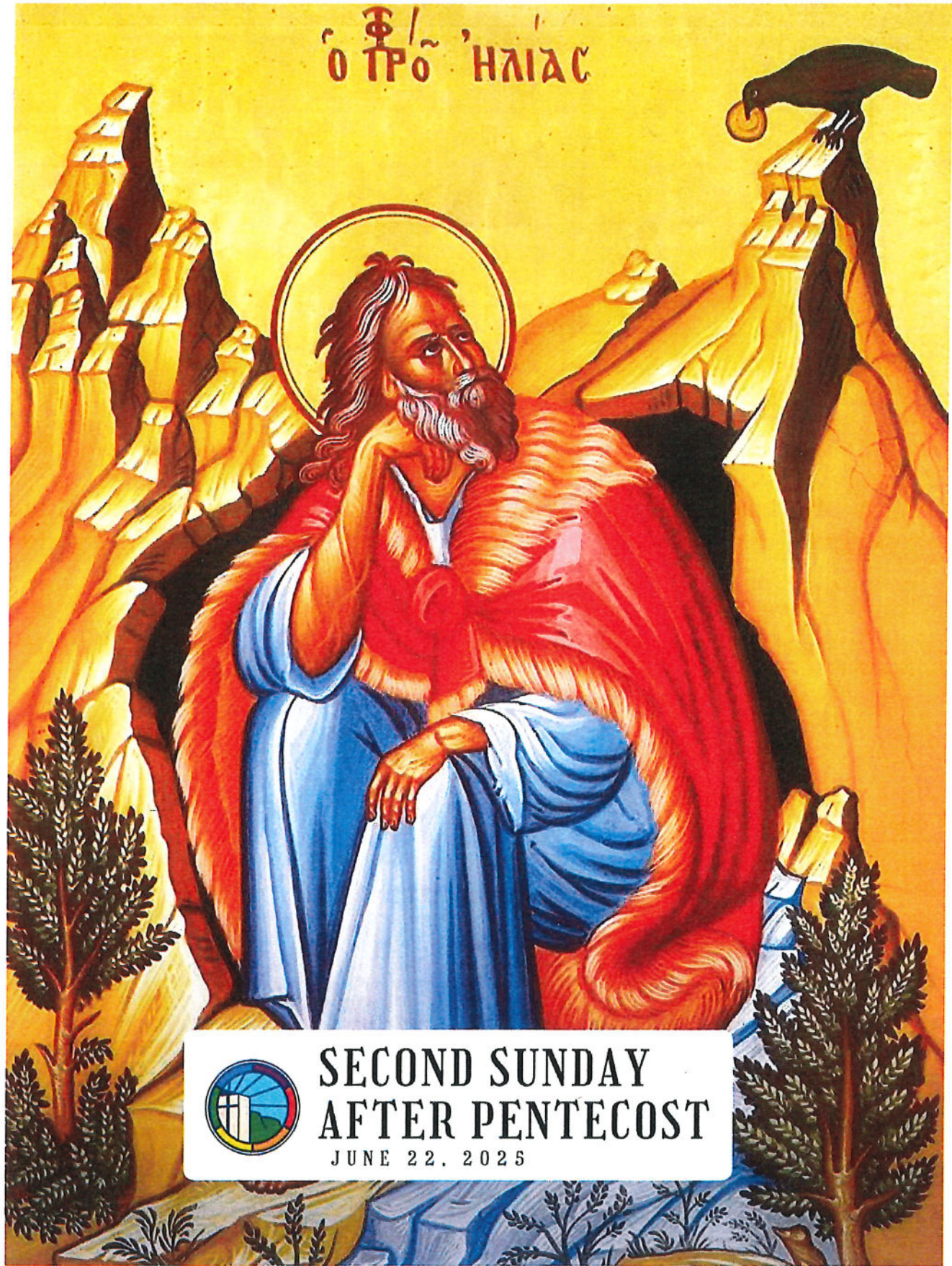


Ο ΤΡΟΣ ΗΛΙΑΣ



SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 22, 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 invite you to stay after worship for the business meeting. 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. Kids Pre-K through rising 3rd grade will have Summer JAM this Sunday. They will go down to their classes after the kids' message. Kids rising 4th grade and above are invited to pick up a book as they enter the sanctuary and remain with their families throughout worship.



Please ask an usher if you would like a large print or sensory friendly 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 & Preaching.....	Laura Wright
Leading Worship.....	Mary Runyon
Pianist	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Barbara Strohm
Head Usher	Randy Breeser
Ushers	Diane Breeser, Carlene Roberts
Greeters.....	Beth Moore
Nursery.....	Victoria Ratsch

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

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Arr. by Phillips

"Indescribable with 'Morning Has Broken'"

Arr. by Carol Tornquist

Welcome and Announcements

Thank you for joining us this Sunday where all are welcome. Please pass the Friendship Folder, share your name, and take note of those worshipping with you.

Prelude Music

"Morning Has Broken"

Arr. by Martha Mier

*Call to Worship

Inspired by 1 Kings 19

One: Come, beloved children of God.

Come as you are: tired, hopeful, grieving, or joyous.

Many: **We come to this sanctuary, longing for rest and guidance from God.**

One: As with Elijah, God does not always come in thunder and flame — sometimes God is found in stillness, deep breaths, & moments of grace.

All: **Here, in silence and song, we open ourselves to the Holy One.**

One: Let us listen together for that still small voice, coming with peace:



Moment of Silence

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

***Hymn 723** (*All join in singing the hymns.*)

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

Ar hyd y nos

***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. Younger Kids (rising Pre-K through rising 3rd grade) will go down to Summer JAM following the Kids' Message.

Acclamation (*Sung by all.*)

Halleluja

All:



The First Lesson

Barbara Strohm

1 Kings 19:8-15a

The Psalter

Psalm 42:1-8, 11 (*Read Responsively*)

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

Many: **My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

When shall I come and behold the face of God?

One: My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

Many: **These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house
of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving.**

One: Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?

Many: **Hope in God, for I shall again praise God, my help and my God.**

One: My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

Many: **Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your torrents;
all your waves and your billows have gone over me.**

Many: **Why are you cast down, O my soul?**

One: Why are you disquieted within me?

Many: **Hope in God. For I shall again praise God, my help and my God.**

The Gospel

Luke 8:26-39

Sermon

"Sacred Silence, Startling Call"

Rev. Laura Wright

Responding

with the voice of hope

***Hymn 451** *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"Be Still, My Soul"

Finlandia

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

Nancy Allen

Music at the Offertory

"Just As I Am"

Arr. by Shackley

*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 595 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

We are one in the Spirit

*The Blessing

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*Flowers today are given by Patty Leach
in honor of Carole McQueen and her service as moderator.*

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, June 22

10:00 am Worship w/JAM & Nursery
11:00 am Special Congregational Meeting (S)

Monday, June 23

Woman's Book Club (L)

Tuesday, June 24

5:00 pm Children's Choir Practice

Wednesday, June 25

10:00 am Sip & Scripture (L)
5:00 pm Children's Choir Practice
7:00 pm Church Council Meeting (L)

Thursday, June 26

50:00 pm Children's Choir Practice

Friday, June 27

Office Closed

Sunday, June 29

Noisy Offering

10:00 am Worship w/Children's Choir
10:00 am JAM & Nursery
11:00 am Fellowship (CR)
2:15 pm Churchwide Day at the Movies
How to Train Your Dragon (Rivoli)

CALENDAR KEY

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

JOIN US FOR AN ALL-CHURCH SUNDAY FUNDAY!

June 29th – We're heading to **The Rivoli** to see *How to Train Your Dragon*!

Showtime: 2:45 PM

Meet at: 2:15 PM to order food and find seats together.

Let's enjoy a fun afternoon as a church family!



Please Join Us for a Congregational Meeting



The meeting will take place **immediately following worship** in the **sanctuary**.

We will be voting on **four questions** related to **Building & Grounds issues** and **Solar Energy**.

Your voice matters—thank you for being part of this important conversation!