

ΗΛΙΑΣ



THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 29, 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. There is no fellowship hour today. If you would like to volunteer to host fellowship hour please sign up in the Narthex.

All are welcome. Jesus called us to welcome all into the family of God. 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.....	Emma Ledbetter
Head Usher	Michael Feuerhelm
Ushers	Cam & Carlene Roberts
Greeters.....	Tom Stolpa
Nursery.....	Zali Stanton

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

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"Amazing Grace"

Arr. by Martha Mier

"Here I Am"

Arr. by Vogt

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

"Oh, Worship the King"

Arr. by Shackley

*Call to Worship

Inspired by 2 Kings 2

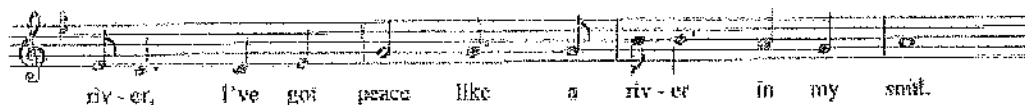
One: When the road ahead feels uncertain, and we face the loss
of those who led us — God does not leave us comfortless.

Many: **We come with hearts ready to receive the mantle of courage and faith.**

One: Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind,
but his spirit did not vanish. It rested on Elisha — and it rests on us.

Many: **We are inheritors of holy boldness,
called to cross rivers, speak justice, and walk in love.**

One: Come, beloved community, let us sing to the God
who walks with us in the whirlwind:



Moment of Silence

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

*Hymn 248 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Houston

*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

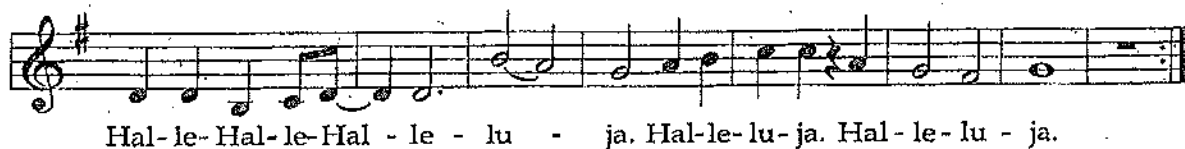
The Word for Children

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

Emma Ledbetter

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

The Psalter

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 *(Read Responsively)*

One: I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that God may hear me.

Many: **In the day of my trouble, I seek the LORD;**

One: in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;

Many: **my soul refuses to be comforted.**

One: I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD;
I will remember your wonders of old.

Many: **I will meditate on all your work and muse on your mighty deeds.**

One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

Many: **You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the peoples.**

One: With your strong arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.

Many: **When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you,
they were afraid; the very deep trembled.**

One: The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered;
your arrows flashed on every side.

Many: **The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;
your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.**

One: Your way was through the sea, your path through the mighty waters,
yet your footprints were unseen.

Many: **You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

The Gospel

Luke 9:51-62

Sermon

"When the Cloak Falls and the Journey Begins"

Rev. Laura Wright

Responding

with the voice of hope

***Hymn 350** (*All join in singing the hymns.*)

"The Summons"

Kelvingrove

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

Music at the Offertory

"Moment by Moment"

Arr. by Cindy Berry

*As the Gifts Are Presented: Sing to the tune of Old 100th (Hymn 147).

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

"Guide My Feet"

African American Spiritual

1. Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.
 2. Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.
 3. Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I

don't want to run this race in vain. _____
 don't want to run this race in vain. _____
 don't want to run this race in vain. _____

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Arr. by Vandall

Acknowledgements: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" words and music © 1970 Celebration (Admin. The Copyright Company). "The Summons," words and music © 1987 WGRG The Iona Community (Admin. GIA Publications). "Guide My Feet," words in the public domain and music Harm. © estate of Wendell Whalum. Hymns and service music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014.

Cover Image: This image was created uniquely for today's worship.

*Flowers today are given by a friend of Audrey Kader
in celebration of Audrey's June 26th birthday.*

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 29

Noisy Offering

10:00 am Worship w/JAM & Nursery

2:15 pm Churchwide Day at the Movies

How to Train Your Dragon (Rivoli)

Tuesday, July 1

12:00 pm All Staff Planning Meeting

Friday, July 4

Office Closed

Sunday, July 6

WAFER Sunday

10:00 am Worship w/Communion

10:00 am JAM & Nursery

11:00 am Confirmation (CR)

CALENDAR KEY

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



JOIN US TODAY FOR AN ALL-CHURCH SUNDAY FUNDAY!

TODAY – 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!



**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, JULY 7TH.**

**MICHELLE WILL BE ENJOYING
A DAY OF VACATION.**