



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 21, 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. Join our Fellowship Hour after worship where everyone is invited to enjoy conversation and refreshments in the Community Room. A restroom for all people and genders is located next to the Chapel.

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.

Livestreaming Notice for Worship. We strive for worship to be accessible for all, so we livestream our worship services on our YouTube channel, First Congregational UCC, La Crosse. Your voice and/or image may be visible in the broadcast. These recordings are publicly available and will remain accessible at the church's discretion. If you prefer not to appear on camera, we invite you to sit in the last six rows of the sanctuary, which are not shown in the livestream.



Please ask an usher if you need assistance or would like a large-print or sensory-friendly bulletin. A Hearing Loop system is available.

Serving in Worship Today

Leading Worship & Preaching.....	Laura Wright
Leading Worship.....	Mary Runyon
Pianist	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Sherry Sawle
Head Usher	Michael Feuerhelm
Ushers	Dontae McClam, Julie Mannion
Greeters.....	Tom Stolpa
Nursery	Zali Stanton
Fellowship	Ministry of Building & Grounds

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

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"Toccata in C Major"

Zipoli/ Arr. by Hopson

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

"Hymn of Promise"

Piano: Courtney Austin, Vocal Solo: Nada Austin

Natalie Sleeth

*Call to Worship

Inspired by Amos 8

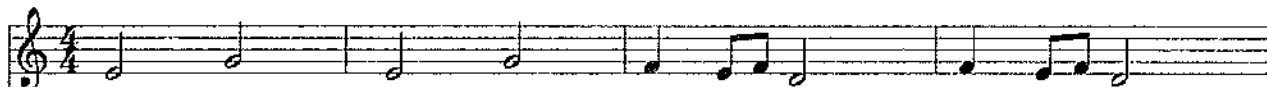
One: We come to listen, to turn,
to live into God's justice.

Many: **God will not forget the cries of the poor,
or overlook those who trample the vulnerable.**

One: We come to remember what God remembers,
to care for those God cares for.

Many: **Let us enter this time of worship with hearts open to God's truth,
and lives ready to be changed.**

One: We lift our voices to the Living God,
who calls us to justice, mercy, and steadfast love:



In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied.
In my song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied.
In Your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied.
In my heart, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied.
In my home, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied.



In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to - day.
In my song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to - day.
In Your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to - day.
In my heart, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to - day.
In my home, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to - day.

Moment of Silence

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

*Hymn 358 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Beecher

*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 then go to their JAM classrooms after the Word for Children as the congregation sings.

The Word in Song by our Kids Choir

"Rise & Shine"

"Clap Your Hands"

"Look Who God Made"

Acclamation *(Sung by all.)*

Halleluja

All:



The First Lesson

Sherry Sawle

Amos 8:4-7

The Psalter

Psalm 113 (*Read responsively from The Message.*)

One: Hallelujah! You who serve God, praise God!
Just to speak his name is praise!

Many: **Just to remember God is a blessing—
now and tomorrow and always.**

One: From east to west, from dawn to dusk,
keep lifting all your praises to God!

Many: **God is higher than anything and anyone,
outshining everything you can see in the skies.**

One: Who can compare with God, our God,
so majestically enthroned, surveying his magnificent heavens and
earth?

Many: **He picks up the poor from out of the dirt,
rescues the forgotten who've been thrown out with the trash.**

One: Seat them among the honored guests,
a place of honor among the brightest and best.

Many: **Hallelujah!**

The Gospel

Luke 16:1-13

Sermon

"Two Masters, One Heart"

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright

Responding

with the voice of hope

Anthem

"Offertory"

The Sanctuary Choir

John Ness Beck

The Community Invited into Prayer

Prayers of the Church

*The petitions end with: God, in your love,
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

"Morning Has Broken"

Arr. by Hopson

*As the Gifts Are Presented: Sing to the tune of 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 569 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

CWM Rhondda

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"Rondeau"

Arr. by Hopson

Acknowledgements: "In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified," words and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Ministries. Assigned to The Lorenz Corporation 1998. "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," words and music in the public domain. "God of Grace, God of Glory," 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 shows a trade scale discovered in the ancient Sultanhani caravanserai along the Silk Road in Anatolia. On one side of the scale rests a shekel weight, pressing down the pan. These shekels were marked with numbers indicating how many units they represented. Dishonest merchants would sometimes alter or undercut these inscribed weights to cheat buyers. The prophet Amos condemns this very practice, declaring that the poor were being defrauded in the marketplace (Amos 8:5).

*Flowers today are given by Ornelle Jorgensen and family
in loving memory of Bob Jorgensen.*

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?

Can we share your gift to God with the congregation?
Yes_____ No_____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week in our Church:

Sunday, September 21

Office Closed

- 9:00 am Faith Forum: Mary Ehle (C)
RE: *The Serviceberry*
10:00 am Worship w/JAM & Nursery
11:00 am Fellowship (CR)
11:00 am WISE Justice Meeting (L)
11:00 pm Back-to-School Picnic (Weigent Park)

Monday, September 22

Office Closed

- 1:30 pm Woman's Book Club (L)

Tuesday, September 23

Office Closed

Wednesday, September 24

Office Closed

- 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting (CR)

Thursday, September 25

Office Closed

- 6:30 pm Community Discussion
"The Serviceberry" (Pearl St. Books)
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, September 26

Office Closed

- 10:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR)

Sunday, August 28

Heritage Worship

Noisy Offering

- 9:00 am JAM Breakfast (CC\R)
10:00 am Worship w/JAM & Nursery
11:00 am Fellowship (CR)

CALENDAR KEY

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



September 22nd through the 26th
so Michelle can enjoy a sabbath rest



Make a joyful noise
unto God, all ye lands.

Psalms 66:1, KJV

Thank You to our Kid's Choir for the Beautiful Music
this morning. Our singer are:

Nada Austin

Tatum Mitchell

Regan Austin

Sloane Mitchell

Annalea Biedermann

Nori Parker

Blaire Boorn-Nederloe

Sarina Wayne

Reece Boorn-Nederloe

Autumn White

Annabelle Brouwer

Thank you for blessing us with your wonderful gifts
this morning—they enriched our worship in such a special way!