



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

November 26, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

In Person & Live Streamed



*Let us always meet each other with smile,
for the smile is the beginning of love.*

~ Mother Teresa

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

Please stand if able. **Bold denotes unison response.*

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brief announcements are welcome, please be in the front pews at the start of the announcements.

Offerings and prayer request on the yellow prayer cards found in the pews may be placed in the offering plate at the time of the offering or in the designated boxes on the back table.

PRELUDE

There is Faint Music

Nancy Buckley/Dan Forrest

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us spotlight our worship as a quiet "coming home" to God, a time for prayers with or without words welling up from the very private depth of our hearts. Be assured: God is here, God listens. There is a "sense" of soul as real as our physical senses. Just as we become aware of physical realities around us through sight, touch or hearing so we can become aware of spiritual experiences and encounters through worship and prayer. This Very Day God beckons every person who strives to live a better life, enrich the world, tries to be like "Christ" to their neighbor, then know, this very day that God is standing with and WITHIN you, with truth and light.

To go around most of the week thinking "I" and "ME" is okay yet what a lift to find ourselves gathered together in worship whether in our church sanctuary or in the comfort of our homes as we turn our thinking to "Us and "We." Worship is a heart open in loving trust to God; relating everything to God's purposes and plans; seeking to be in harmony with God's will; regretting sins, because they hurt the One who loves us, and receiving strength and help for whatever may confront us. Worship can happen any place; Worship can happen any time; Let it happen NOW!

*HYMN

We Gather Together

Chalice (Blue), 276

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

Alleluia the Christ child comes, and we await His birth. Let us watch for the signs and listen to the messengers. Something wonderfully new is

emerging, something new is being born. Holy One, fill us with hope in our personal lives and a hopeful future for a united, peace-filled world. Enable us to bring optimism and inspiration to the hopeless and harmony and peace to a divided world. Amen

Our Father, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen, Amen.*

OFFERING

The offering we present today is not merely a monetary gift; it is an act of worship, a tangible expression of our love and devotion to God. Through our offerings, we contribute to the work of God's Church, enabling us to continue spreading the message of love, compassion, and peace. It is through our collective generosity that we can support our church, reach out to those in need, and share the light of Christ with the world. Let us give with a spirit of joy and gratitude, recognizing that our gifts, no matter how small, can have a profound impact on the world around us. Thank you for your generosity and for your commitment to the work of God's Church. Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY

God of Glory, Lord of Love

Mary McDonald

Senior Choir

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(The youth are excused for Church school)

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE



Psalm 126 Pew Bible page 499

SERMON

Universal Greeting



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer*

***HYMN**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Pilgrim (red) 345

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *From Whose Abundant Stores* from “The Seasons” F.J. Haydn
Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE**

Alleluia

Mozart

The Worship is ended... ~ Our Service Now Begins~