



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**November 5, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**In Person & Live Streamed**



*God does not change; he is Love, ever and always. In himself, he is communion, unity in Trinity, and all his words and works are directed to communion. ~ Pope Benedict XVI*

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

*Children will start in Church School returning for Holy Communion*

**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**

*Bread for the World*

Bernadette Farrell

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Friends, hear the Good News!

God has chosen to make known to us the mystery of the glory of Christ.

**The Spirit within us enriches our lives.**

Jesus said, *do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life.*

**Jesus, teach us the difference.**

*I am the bread of life, Jesus said.*

*Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

**Jesus, thank You for the gift of eternal life.**

**Let us worship the God of all creation.**

**\*HYMN**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Chalice (blue) 715

**\*GATHERING PRAYER & \*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gracious God, we are often rushed by the busyness of life and weary from the stresses of each day. We come to this sanctuary of peace to catch our breath and focus on You. Open our eyes, we pray, to the signs of hope ever present before us that often go unnoticed. With Your divine guidance we can be exceedingly optimistic as we have infinite reason to hope! During this time of worship help us to move from our fleshly fears to celestial courage. In Jesus' name, 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**

May our giving be an act of worship, a way of saying thank you to God for all He has done. Hebrews 13:16 says, *and do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.

**OFFERTORY**

*Come to the Water*  
Senior Choir

John Foley Arr. Lynda Hassler

**\*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**

**READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE**



John 6:25-35 Pew Bible page 867

**SERMON**

*Reunion through Communion with the Divine Human*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**



*Joys & Concerns  
Moment of Silence  
Pastoral Prayer*

**HYMN (seated)** *Let Us Break Bread Together* Chalice (blue) 425 (vs. 1&2)

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation

Prayer over the Elements

Serving of the Elements

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)**

**Almighty God, we give You thanks for the gift of  
Holy Communion, the bread of life and the cup of salvation.  
We pray this meal will strengthen us in our faith and love for You.  
Help us to live our lives in accordance with Your will,  
and to love one another as You have loved us.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN** *Let Us Break Bread Together* Chalice (blue) 425 (vs.3)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Peace I Leave with You* Matthew Glandorf  
Senior Choir

**\*POSTLUDE** *Andante Maestoso* from the Planets (Jupiter) Gustav Holst

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