# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

MARCH 2, 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 in and then pass it back across the pew to the outside aisle.

**All are welcome.** Jesus called us to welcome all into the family of God. We welcome you to our Fellowship Hour after worship in the Community Room where everyone is invited to enjoy conversation and refreshments. 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. Our kids are invited to go to their classrooms after the kids' message.



**Please ask an usher** if you would like a large print 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

Co-leading Worship and Preachi	ngLaura Wright
Co-leading Worship	Mary Runyon
Bell Choir Director	Sue Retzlaff
Bell Choir	. Mary Ann Gschwind, Julie Larson, Julie Shelby,
	Jeanne Swanson, Charmaine and Tom Uphaus
Organist and Pianist	Kristi Koch
Reading Scripture	Sue Heuer
Head Usher	Randy Breeser
Ushers	Diane Breeser, Katie Clements
Greeters	Bette Stiers
Communion Assistants	Pat & Wayne Lura
Nursery	Zali Stanton and Bree Scholl
Fellowship Hour	Creation Care Team

<sup>\*</sup> In the order of service indicates all who are able, please stand.

## **80** Gathering

in the presence of God

#### Gathering Music

"Light of the World"

Kristi Koch Franklin Ritter

#### Welcome and Announcements

Thank you for joining us this Sunday where all are welcome. You are invited to pass the Friendship Folder through your row. Take note of those worshipping with you.

#### Prelude Music

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky"

The Bell Choir arr. Jason Krug

#### \*Call to Worship

One: At times God shows up in ways we cannot deny, in a place we can go,

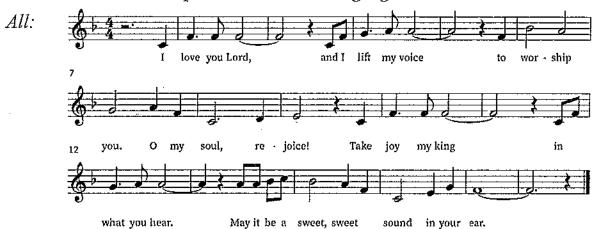
a light we can see, or a voice we can hear.

Many: Sometimes there is a veil or a cloud.

One: Sometimes there is a question or a silence.

Many: Yet God shows up.

One: So we show up here and now, singing to the God who loves us:



#### Moment of Silence

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

\*Hymn 91 (All join in singing the hymns.)

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Ratisbon

#### \*Sharing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Please greet those near you 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 go to their JAM classrooms after the kids' message concludes and the congregation sings.

All:



#### The First Lesson

Sue Heuer

Exodus 34:29 – 35

#### The Psalter

Psalm 99:4-9 (Read Responsively)

One: Mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;

Many: you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

One: Extol the LORD our God; worship at God's footstool.

Many: Holy is God!

One: Moses and Aaron were among his priests.

Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

Many: They cried to the LORD, and God answered them.

One: God spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

they kept God's decrees and the statutes that were given them.

Many: O LORD our God, you answered them.

One: You were a forgiving God to them

but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

Many: Extol the LORD our God, and worship at God's holy mountain,

One: for the LORD our God is holy.

#### The Gospel

Luke 9:28 - 36

#### Sermon

"The Cloud and the Voice"

Laura Wright

# **& Responding**

with the voice of hope

#### \*Voluntary

"O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair"

The Bell Choir Arr. by Jason Krug

### 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.

## **20** Thanksgiving

for the gifts of God

Stories of Generosity

Susan Oddsen, La Crescent Food Shelf

Anthem

"Here I Am, Lord"

The Sanctuary Choir Schutte/Arr. Mayfield

\*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

#### \*The Great Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Open up your hearts.

Many: We open them to God.

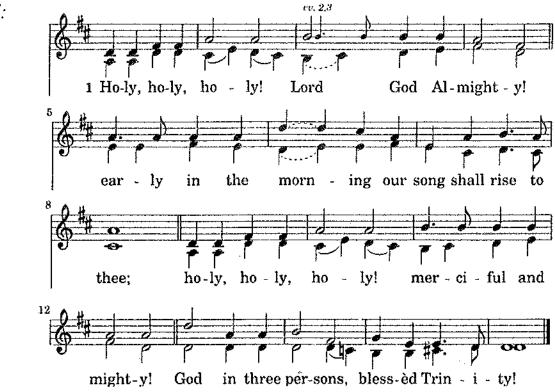
One: Let us say thanks to God.

Many: For it is wise and healthy to give God thanks.

One: It is truly wise and our great joy ... Therefore, we join our voices with

all the ancestors who shared our faith to sing forever:

All:



The Congregation may be seated.

One:

On the night before Jesus was betrayed... Then Jesus said after supper, "This cup that is poured out for you—this is my new promise to you—my new covenant." So now we can remember and share,

All:

Christ has died; Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

One:

Jesus promised his disciples that though he would leave them due to his death—he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them ... Let us eat of this meal together—remembering that God has provided for all of us and God's Spirit is now with us.

#### Sharing Communion

This is the table of Christ, not of this church. All are welcome and encouraged to join in the sharing of communion at Christ's Table, regardless of age or tradition, for it is this meal which binds all of us, different as we are, together.

We will receive communion by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup). All bread is gluten-free to welcome all at the table of Christ. Please come to the front of the church by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisles. If you need to receive communion where you are seated, please let an usher know.

Thanksgiving after Communion

## **80 Going**

to be messengers of good news

\*Hymn 22 (All join in singing the hymns.)
"Let All Things Now Living"

Ash Grove

\*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"God the Victorious"

Kristi Koch arr. Robert W. Thygerson

Acknowledgments: "I Love You, Lord," words and music © 1978 House of Mercy Music (admin. by Maranatha! Music c/o The Copyright Company. "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies," words and music in the public domain. "Let All Things Now Living," words © 1939, Ren. 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company and music in the public domain. Hymns and service music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014. The call to celebration was modified from Joanna Harader's call to worship for Transfiguration Sunday on "Spacious Faith" (https://spaciousfaith.com/).

Cover Image: Image on the cover is of the sun setting to complement the image of Moses' face shining like the sun after being transformed. The image is taken by Dimitris Vetsikas from Pixabay and was used with the church's subscription.

Today's flowers are given by Carolyn and David Norenberg in appreciation of our staff & volunteers who make things run smoothly.

## First Congregational UCC Ministry Team

All the Members	Ministers
Rev. Dr. Laura Wright	
Rev. Mary Runyon	
Nancy Allen	
Sue Retzlaff	Bell Choir Director
Michelle Logan	
Contact Information: First Congregational U	JCC, 2503 Main Street, La Crosse, WI 54601,
608-784-8137 or office@firstcongolax.org, or vi	

What gifts did you give God this week?

Do you mind if we share your gift to God with the congregation? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_



This Week in our Church:			
Sunday, March 2		Thursday, March 6	
WAFER Sunday		Service & Worship Committee (L)	5:45 pm
Faith Forum: La Crescent Food Bank(C)	9:00 am	Sanctuary Choir	7:00 pm
Worship w/Holy Communion	10:00 am	Edday March W	· Commission · Promotes
Jam	10:40 am	Friday, March 7	
Confirmation (L)	11:00 am	Office Closed	10.00
Fellowship (CR)	11:00 am	Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR)	10:30 am
Sunday Funday at Mt. La Crosse	2:00 pm	Sunday, March 9	
Tuesday, March 4		Daylight Savings Time Begins	
Care Creation Committee (Zoom)	5:00 pm	Faith Forum: Rev. Kerri Parker	9:00 am
, ,		Worship w/JAM & Nursery	10:00 am
Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wedne		MS/HS Donuts & Discussions (L)	10:45 am
Sip & Scripture at Java Vino	10:00 am	Fellowship (CR)	11:00 am
Ash Wednesday Worship	Noon	Missions & Social Justice (L)	11:00 am
Ashes to Go 5:00 pm t	o 6:00 pm	CALENDAR KEY	
		CR = Community Room, C = Chapel, L = Lo	unge
		N = Narthex, S = Sanctuary, J = JAM Rooms	



# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

We have been truly blessed for 60 years by the beautiful sounds of our Handbell Choir. Through countless hours of dedication, planning, and practice, the ringers and their Director have shared the gift of music with us all. Please join us for cake during fellowship as we celebrate this amazing group and their ministry.

Thanks be to God for this wonderful blessing!



Join us at noon on Wednesday, March 5th, for our **Ash Wednesday Worship**, including the imposition of ashes.

For those unable to attend the noon service, **Ashes to Go** will be available between 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm that evening. This is an opportunity to receive your ashes and affirm your Lenten discipline.

All are welcome as we begin this sacred season together.



The white roses on the altar are placed in loving memory of Melvin (Mel) Breeser, brother of Randy Breeser, and Janice Sawle, mother of Sherry Sawle. May their memory be a blessing.