



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 Preaching	Laura 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

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

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:

All:



I love you Lord, and I lift my voice to wor-ship

7

12 you. O my soul, re-joice! Take joy my king in

what you hear. May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

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:



This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine!

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine!

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine!

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

The First Lesson

Exodus 34:29 – 35

Sue Heuer

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.

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:

ev. 2,3

1 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y!

5 ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to

8 thee; ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and

12 might-y! God in three pêr-sons, bless-èd Trin - i - ty!

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

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

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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..... 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, March 2

WAFER Sunday
Faith Forum: La Crescent Food Bank(C) 9:00 am
Worship w/Holy Communion 10:00 am
Jam 10:40 am
Confirmation (L) 11:00 am
Fellowship (CR) 11:00 am
Sunday Funday at Mt. La Crosse 2:00 pm

Tuesday, March 4

Care Creation Committee (Zoom) 5:00 pm

Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday

Sip & Scripture at Java Vino 10:00 am
Ash Wednesday Worship Noon
Ashes to Go 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Thursday, March 6

Service & Worship Committee (L) 5:45 pm
Sanctuary Choir 7:00 pm

Friday, March 7

Office Closed
Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR) 10:30 am

Sunday, March 9

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Faith Forum: Rev. Kerri Parker 9:00 am
Worship w/JAM & Nursery 10:00 am
MS/HS Donuts & Discussions (L) 10:45 am
Fellowship (CR) 11:00 am
Missions & Social Justice (L) 11:00 am

CALENDAR KEY

CR = Community Room, C = Chapel, L = Lounge,
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.