

*First Congregational Church*  
*Our Church in Worship*

November 21, 2021 10:00 AM

Thanksgiving Sunday

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PRELUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* – arr. Johannes Matthias Michel Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Dan McKenney

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: This place of worship has been prepared for us to come with songs of thanksgiving before our God. Bring your gifts to the altar and share your stories of blessings!

**People: God has provided so much—even this beautiful day—we will raise our voices and celebrate!**

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**Generous, loving Creator, every day you shower us with blessings. We recognize the abundant gifts you have offered to us. We are thankful for a harvest to enjoy and to share, and for this time to celebrate with friends and family. Our hearts are glad and we give you thanks. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 276 *We Gather Together*

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART *What If?* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Barbara Papagian

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT MEDITATION

OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

**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.**

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Let All Things Now Living* Chancel Choir &  
– Welsh folk melody/descant by Katherine K. Davis Susan Wilkes, flute

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light. By law God enforces. The stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine. We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing with glad adoration, a song let us raise: till all things now living united in thanksgiving, to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Matthew 6:25-33

Selma Naccach-Hoff

SERMON

*Abundant Blessings*

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 715 *Now Thank We All Our God*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: God's Word reminds us of what is perishable, and what is eternal. Go forth from this place remembering:

**People: these are the things that last just for a time:**

Leader: The foundations of Empires; The reign of Kings and Rulers; The wood, stones or bricks of church buildings; Wars and uprisings in hostile places; Earthquakes and famines and tragedies; The threat of bullets and bombs.

**People: And these are the things that last forever:**

Leader: God's love, which has no end, the promises of Christ which sustain us, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

**People: We leave with faith in our hearts, seeing hope on the horizon, and with patience for the days ahead.**

POSTLUDE

*Fugue in E-Flat Major (St. Anne)* – Johann Sebastian Bach

During these challenging times, we gratefully accept your financial offering to support Christ's mission in the heart of our city. Your gift may be left in any of the offering plates located at the exits.

\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**Matthew 6:25-33**

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**First Congregational Church**

United Church of Christ

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*You are welcome here! • We are an Open & Affirming Congregation*