

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sept. 13, 2020

9:30 AM

"Our mission as a church is to be followers of Jesus Christ and servants of God, striving for love, truth, justice, and peace within our congregation, community, and the world."

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EXPRESSING OUR LOVE

(As we prepare for worship, we invite quiet contemplation of the Living God.)

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT #459 (NCH-Black)

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" (verse 1)

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 103)

Bless GOD, O friends: with all our strength, bless the holy name.

Bless GOD, O friends, and never forget God's gifts—

Bless GOD, O friends: with all our strength, bless the holy name.

Bless GOD, O friends, and never forget God's gifts--

Forgiveness flowing into healing,

Tireless goodness and joy:

Strength and youth of the Eagle's flight.

Bless GOD, O friends: with all our strength, bless the holy name.

Bless GOD, O friends, and never forget God's gifts--

Vindication, justice for all those oppressed;

Liberation from bondage, and guidance for the way;

Unending mercy, steadfast love.

Bless GOD, O friends: with all our strength, bless the holy name.

Bless GOD, O friends, and never forget God's gifts--

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is GOD's love toward those who are faithful;

As a parent has compassion for children,

so our GOD has compassion for us.

Bless GOD, O friends: with all our strength, bless the holy name.

Bless GOD, O friends, and never forget God's gifts.

***HYMN #13** (NCH-Black)

“O My Soul, Bless your Creator” (vs 1,2,4)

GATHERING PRAYER

Compassionate-One, Lover-of-Goodness, Patience-with-Sinners,
Draw near to us.

Surround us with confidence in your good news:
that you love us as parents love their children;
that your mercy is boundless and generous,
that you beckon us always and will wait forever
as we find our way back to you.

Open our hearts to receive your compassion;
And then show us how to forgive,

So that we may be vessels of resurrection hope in our troubled world.
In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***SONG OF PRAISE #338** (UCC-red) (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.

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 18: 21-35
Romans 14: 1-12

SERMON

“HOW much forgiveness?”

***HYMN #23** (NCH-Black)

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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 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 forever. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING (Please send pledges & donations to the church via mail or use online giving.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tues. & Wed. 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M

STAFF

Bridge Pastor: Michael Mario

Administrative Assistant: Judy Lasell

Sexton: Todd Murray