



WELCOME TO  
MORNING WORSHIP



Sunday, February 7, 2021

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# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Prelude on "Brother James Air"  
(The Lord's My Shepherd)  
arr. Gilbert Martin

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALLING BELL

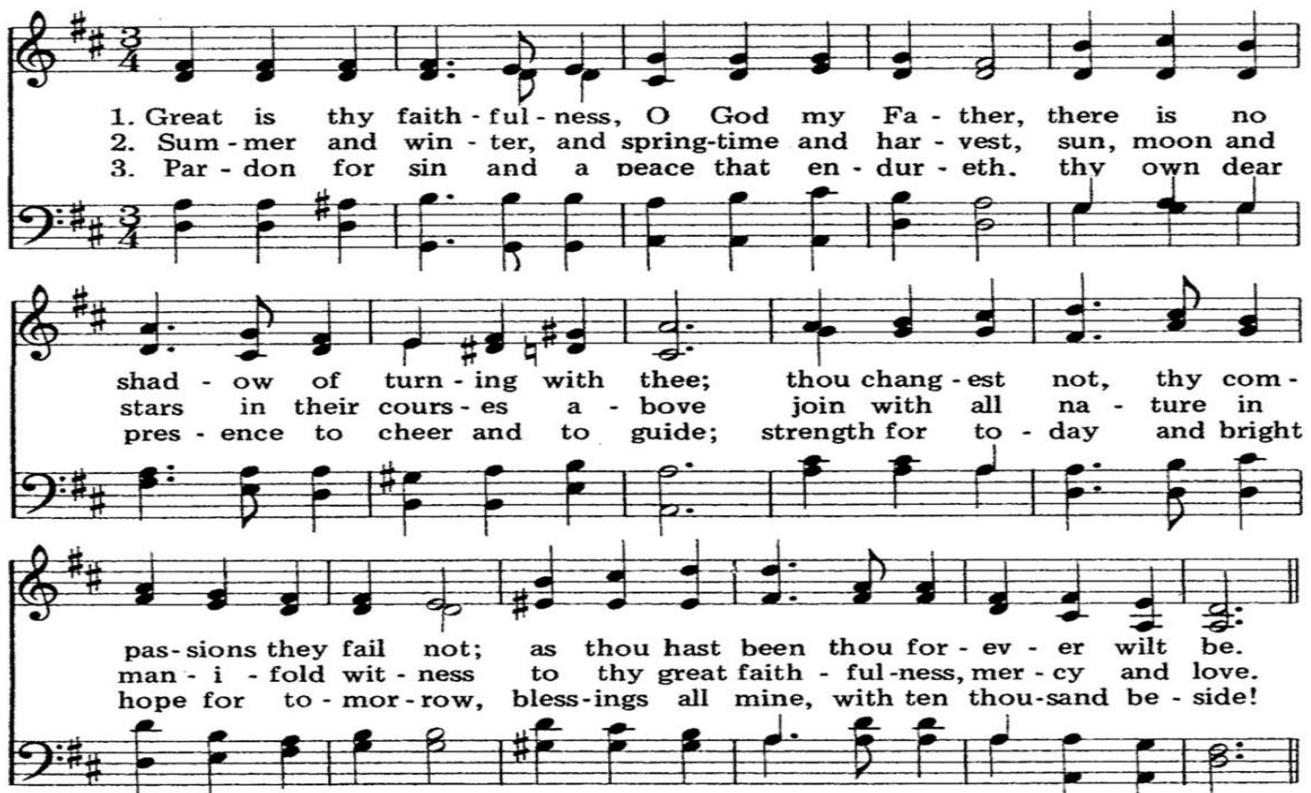
## CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 78:5-8(NLT)

Pastor: <sup>5</sup>For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, <sup>6</sup>so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. <sup>7</sup>So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. <sup>8</sup>Then they will not be like their ancestors—stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.

## HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"  
Performed by Ed Swartz



1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no  
2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon and  
3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth. thy own dear  
shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-  
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in  
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright  
pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love.  
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed - great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923  
MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923

FAITHFULNESS  
11.10.11.10.Ref.

## CALL TO CONFESSION (*Pastor*)

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Please pray this silently along with us*)

Pastor: Loving Father, we know that we belong to You and we belong with You. We know You not only invite us to be close; You adopt us into Your family. You are where we belong. You have asked us to be like You. So we must offer a place to belong to others. We confess we have not done this with intention and commitment. We have offered belonging to people who are like us, people whom we trust. Or we have left it to others to offer the hand of friendship. Please forgive us. Help us commit to create a space at First Church where others can find a feeling as well as a reality of belonging. We love and honor You. Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Pastor*)

## THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 12:9-21 (NLT)

<sup>9</sup> Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. <sup>11</sup> Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. <sup>13</sup> When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. <sup>15</sup> Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! <sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. <sup>18</sup> Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." <sup>21</sup> Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Pastor: This ends the first reading.

## THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:31-46

<sup>31</sup> "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. <sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. <sup>36</sup> I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited

me.’<sup>37</sup> “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink?’<sup>38</sup> Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing?’<sup>39</sup> When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’<sup>40</sup> “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’<sup>41</sup> “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.’<sup>42</sup> For I was hungry, and you didn’t feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me a drink.<sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and you didn’t invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn’t give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’<sup>44</sup> “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’<sup>45</sup> “And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’<sup>46</sup> “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

Pastor: The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON “New Beginnings: Service”  
Pastor Joyce M. Donigian

ANTHEM “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”  
Traditional Melody, Words: John Newton  
Add’l Words & Music: Chris Tomlin & Louis Giglio  
Arr. James Koerts (BMI)  
© 2010 worshiptogether.com Songs & Sixsteps Music  
Performed by the Chancel Choir & Ed Swartz

THE APOSTLES CREED

Pastor: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the

Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Pastor*)

### OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: 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.

## OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER (*Pastor*)

### INVITATION

Pastor: Jesus invites us to believe in Him and act on our belief.

Pastor: He says, "Here I am. I stand at the door and knock; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in."

Pastor: When you open your door, we rejoice, as you experience Him in your heart and look forward to eternal life.

Pastor: He says, "If anyone loves me, he will keep My word and My Father and I will make our abode with him.

Pastor: Merciful God, we rejoice with You for all who are saved by belief and grace and all who keep Your word to love others as themselves. Amen.

*If you have professed faith in Jesus for the first time or have committed yourself anew to grow as a disciple, please inform the pastors.*

CHARGE (*Pastor*)  
BENEDICTION (*Pastor*)  
POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 10 - KNIT ONE PRAY TOO - The next meeting is on February 10 at 6:30. If you have questions, please contact Lenora W. Members of the prayer shawl ministry team joining together must follow COVID safety measures.

WOMEN'S GUILD - The February Women's Guild meeting had to be postponed due to the weather. The snow date is Tuesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting will be held in fellowship hall following all COVID guidelines. If you have a favorite Erma Bombeck story or one of her "thoughts" that you particularly like – please bring it to the meeting to share. Those that attend regularly will receive an email asking for a yes or no about attendance. If you are not on our list but would like to come, please email [womensguild@firstucc.net](mailto:womensguild@firstucc.net) or call Barbara at home by February 24<sup>th</sup>. We'd love to see some new faces!

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY FORMING SOON - For many people, the past year has been one of increasing isolation and loneliness. I miss getting together with my church family! We, the church, also want to reach out to people who are new to our community. Pastor Jon recently preached about how the church is a place to belong (1/17/21). We want you to feel connected with and fully part of the fellowship of our church family! We are going to start virtual groups for fellowship and bible study. A planning group is forming now to explore ways that small groups can fill a vital role. The beauty of small groups is that they let people be who they are. Each group can set its own agenda. As this is still in the planning stage, nothing is final yet. If you are at all interested, please let us know by taking the survey (copies are available in the Narthex). Deadline for returning survey: February 28. Thank you! *Di Drennan*

LENT AND EASTER - *Stay Tuned for Event Details – Phone Tree Messages will Convey More Lenten Details*

Ash Wednesday is on February 17

Lent Communion Service – Sunday, February 21

Palm Sunday is on March 28

Maundy Thursday is on April 1 with Holy Communion

Good Friday is on April 2 with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday is on April 4 with Holy Communion

*Details for Soup Suppers, Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Lilies are still being considered at this time.*

VACCINE APPOINTMENT ASSISTANCE - Do you know someone who needs computer help in registering for the COVID vaccine (in the current phase)? Please have them call Lisa J., who will be happy to try to secure an appointment for them!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING/ATTENDANCE - It was difficult to conduct all the matters of business at hand and deal with technology issues but we were certain of a quorum, having at least 48 participants in the Zoom meeting. We would be very interested in keeping a record of attendance of all who were present with us, so please let the church office know by using the slip below or emailing [info@firstucc.net](mailto:info@firstucc.net), if you joined us on Sunday, either through Zoom or through Facebook Live. Also feel free to let us know of others who many have called in.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RECAP - The following persons were approved by the congregation to serve as elders: Diana Drennan, Alyse Federsel, and Ryan Miller; as deacons: Bruce Allen, Bill Palmisano, and Joe Ryglicki. Thank you for your willingness to lead First Church in these roles. Thank you to Joe Juretus, Karen Mackewicz, and Joe Ryglicki whose terms have expired. A special thank you to our council president, Alyse Federsel, who has decided to remain for a THIRD year, Alyse Federsel, to Daniel Simon who has agreed to serve as vice president this year and will plan to serve as president in 2022, and to Joe



Ryglicki, who is returning to council as a deacon for another term! Those remaining on council are: elders: Chad Kilhefner, Dena Smith, and Sheila Cox and deacons: Megan Eckert, Gregg Reighard, and Daniel Simon. Your time and efforts are so much appreciated!

IN SYMPATHY – We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Agnes Landis, who passed away on February 2.

February 13 - CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ –Second Saturday of each month – Grab and Go Lunch from 9:00-11:00 am (Sandwich, Fruit, Snack, Sweet, and Drink – While Supplies Last) at First Church.

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ATTENDANCE

I/we attended the meeting on Sunday, January 24.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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