



The LORD was not in the
WIND ...

The LORD was not in the
EARTHQUAKE ...

The LORD was not in the
FIRE.

And after the fire
THE SOUND
of a low

whisper.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Order of Worship

September 17, 2023

"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Ministry Team, Rev. Gene Van Galder and Rev. Dan Herman

PRELUDE (Please allow the gift of music to help prepare you for worship.)

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Siegfried Karg-Elert

© 1992, Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

"Abide With Us, Dear Jesus"

Johann Walther

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WELCOME/GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GATHERING SONG 22, stanzas 1 & 2 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of Love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Op'ning to the sun above;
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of the unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Today we remember an event that challenged the church family.

Congregation: Looking at flames consuming an edifice that was a Beloit landmark.

Pastor: Onlookers cried as they witnessed the devastation.

Congregation: Brave firefighters managed to prevent the fire from spreading to neighboring homes.

Pastor: People remember baptisms, funerals, weddings, and services held in the church.

Congregation: A stunned congregation, facing the reality of what happened.

Pastor: A committee is formed to plan a new edifice.

Congregation: The phoenix is rising.

Pastor: Services are held at the college and Daley Murphy Wisch.

Congregation: The phoenix is rising.

Pastor: Plans are made, revised, and revised again.

Congregation: The phoenix is rising.

Pastor: From plans to construction, a new building emerges.

Congregation: The phoenix is rising.

Pastor: The first service is held and a new chapter in the history of the church is written.

Congregation: The phoenix has risen.

***INVOCATION**

Our heavenly Father, we gather in gratitude for your many blessings in nurturing our congregation throughout the years. You are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, and it is in You that we live and have our being. Lord, in these challenging times, please continue to lead us forward so that our ministry may continue to make a difference in lives in our local community and all over the world.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN 1** "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" Isaac Watts and William Croft
(all verses, organ verse between vs. 3 and 4, descant on vs. 5 and 6)

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (in unison)

Lord, bless our gifts as we offer them to continue the ministry and outreach at First Congregational Church which has served the Lord in the Beloit community since 1838. May we give freely and generously to continue a ministry started 185 years ago.

SPECIAL MUSIC "The eternal gifts of Christ the King"

© 1951, Oxford University Press

1582 melody arr. Henry G. Ley

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezra 3: 7-13

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Rev. Gene Van Galder, Pat Raymer,
Charles Harker

***HYMN 283** "Now Thank We All Our God"

***BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE Three-Fold Amen

POSTLUDE "Now Thank We All Our God" Georg Friederick Telemann

**A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP, SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION,
POTLUCK LUNCH**

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preaching	Rev. Gene Van Galder
Organist & Director of Music	Max Yount
Hymn Leader.....	Gloria Halvorsen
Streaming & Recording	Peter Landon

Upcoming Church Events

Sunday, Oct. 15, 3 pm, MUSICA MAXIMA, Wisconsin Baroque Ensemble
featuring countertenor Patrick Terry and soprano Mimmi Fulmer

September Mission of the Month

Our September Mission of the Month will provide for the people on the
Island of Maui who continue to struggle with the devastating aftermath of
wildfires in August.