



For as the earth
bringeth forth
her bud,
and as the garden
causeth the things
that are sown in
it to spring
forth;

so the Lord GOD
will cause
Righteousness and
praise to
spring forth
before all the
nations.

Isaiah 61:11

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
The Order of Worship
April 14, 2024

"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.)
Frescobaldi Canzona No. 1

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: Turn to Christ,

ALL: who calls us here.

Pastor: Place your trust in God,

ALL: who protects our lives.

Pastor: Lean into Spirit,

ALL: as we worship in Spirit and truth.

***INVOCATION**

God of miracles and truth, bless us, as we gather for worship, with the power of your Holy Spirit. Reveal your presence in our midst and open our hearts and minds to receive your miraculous love. Strengthen our faith this day, that we may go forth as witnesses of your miraculous love.

***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 7** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

RECEIVING THE OFFERING

DOXOLOGY no. 562 (in unison)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

DEDICATION OF GIFTS

Generous God of love and grace, bless these gifts with your abundant love and your life-giving grace. Bless us as we bear witness to your love and grace in all that we say, all that we give, and all that we do. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC A paraphrase of Psalm 23 by George Herbert,
set to music by Peter Irvine

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 7:7-25

MESSAGE "How Do I Change?"

Rev. Gene Van Galder

***HYMN 334** "Amazing Grace"

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** Three-Fold Amen

POSTLUDE Frescobaldi Canzona No. 2

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP— Join us for **Coffee after Church**: Stay for a bit and get to know one another better after church this morning!

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preaching	Rev. Gene Van Galder
Liturgist.....	Rev. Dan Herman
The Lanier Consort.....	Peter Irvine, Emily Nie, Ben Amenta

April Mission of the Month

Our April mission of the month is Family Promise of Greater Beloit. This organization provides shelter, food, clothing, and life skills to families facing homelessness, helping them become self-sufficient members of the community. Checks can be written to First Congregational Church for each Mission of the Month. The church adds a \$200 contribution to each monthly mission.

Sundaes on Sunday

The hospitality committee invites you to enjoy an Ice Cream Sundae bar after worship next Sunday, April 21, in the "ice cream parlor" in the lower level. Join us for fellowship and a heapin' helping of ice cream and toppings!