



**"His master replied,
'Well done, good and faithful servant!
You have been faithful with a few things;
I will put you in charge of many things.
Come and share your master's happiness!'"**

Matthew 25:23, NIV

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
The Order of Worship
May 5, 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.)

Recitation and Offertory from Mass for Convents François Couperin
A Song for Spring Korynne Wilson

WELCOME/GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING SONG 265** "Lord of All Hopefulness" vs. 1, 2 and 3
© Tune, 1931, Harm. 1927, Oxford University Press

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: Join me in this time...a time set apart from the world, yet in the world...
as we renew our foundation of faith.

**All: Our foundation in life is God's eternal presence and our faith is in his son,
Jesus who is the Christ.**

Pastor: In this sanctuary countless people have raised even more countless
prayers.

**All: Today we will add our presence and prayers to the rich history of this
congregation.**

Pastor: So, let us write a new page in the history of this congregation as we
stand together and raise our voices and prayers.

**All: And in this time together let us affirm our foundation of God's love in
Jesus, who is the Christ and our Lord. Amen.**

***INVOCATION**

Eternal God, we begin our worship this morning by recalling your Fourth
Commandment: *"Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Six days you shall
work, but the seventh is a sabbath unto the Lord."* It's a Commandment, not a
suggestion. This is our response to live as you command us as we place
ourselves in your presence. We gather not under a legalistic divine threat, but
with a great yearning and hunger to stand in your presence.

Today you will hear the songs we sing, the words we speak, and our prayers
both spoken and unspoken. We do all of this because we know that our souls

and spirituality, if left unattended, will die and leave us empty and cynical. So, in this time together we call upon your holy Presence to help us empty ourselves of vanity and pride as we open our hearts to your Holy Spirit. Amen.

***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 475 "When the Saints Go Marching In"**

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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

You, O Lord, have called us to be stewards of the gifts entrusted to us and to sacrifice for your church and Kingdom. These gifts are simply one way in which we do that. Bless these gifts and we who give, we pray, so that every gift is magnified to your use and glory. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ride On, King Jesus" spiritual, arranged by L.L. Fleming
©1973, Augsburg Publishing House Soloist, Aaliyah King

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25: 31-46

MESSAGE

Rev. Dan Herman

COMMUNION ANTHEM

***HYMN 543 "Tell It Out With Gladness"**

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** Three-Fold Amen

POSTLUDE Fugue from the Kyrie

Fr. Couperin

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. Dan Herman
Organist & Music Director.....	Max Yount

Announcement

Our guest today is Kelsey Hood-Christenson, President and CEO of Family Services. Family Services is our May Mission of the Month. You’re invited to use the mission envelopes in your bulletin to make a special gift to support their 90-year ministry to our Stateline area. Kelsey will stay for coffee for you to meet her with questions.

May Mission of the Month

Our May Mission of the Month is Family Promise of Greater Beloit. Family Services of Southern Wisconsin & Northern Illinois. This is a 90-year ministry to the people of the Stateline area to address areas of domestic abuse, family resilience, counseling, and more. Special mission envelopes are in your bulletin this week, and you're encouraged to share a gift beyond your regular offering to this ministry of the month.

New Member Orientation

If you’ve been attending church and haven’t yet taken the leap to become a church member your opportunity will be coming soon. Watch for more information in the next newsletter. (Not getting a newsletter? Email the church office at frontoffice@firstcon.org, or call 608-362-4821, to get your name on our mailing list!)