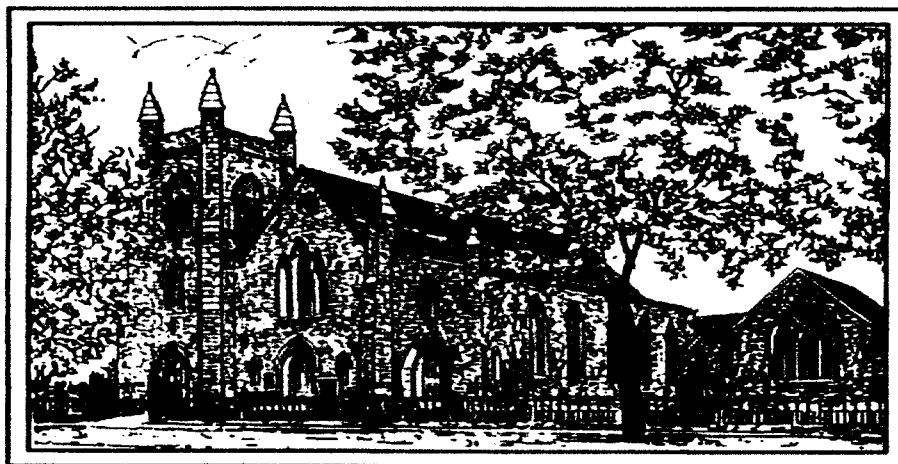


First Congregational Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus
Sunday, November 2, 2025

A SPECIAL SERVICE OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING FOR OUR CHURCH

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: In all our weakness and strength,

Many: with our spirits filled with hope despite our recent loss,

One: we come to be your people, O God.

Many: Strong in faith and eager with questions,

One: singing our praise and whispering our prayers,

Many: we come to be your people, O God.

One: Filled with saintly determination

Many: yet mindful of our human limitations,

One: we come to be your people, O God.

Many: Made strong in your endless love for us,

One: we know ourselves to be yours and

Many: we come to be your people, O God.

All: Here in front of our beloved church, may we truly become your people today. Amen.

A Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Hymn

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.

Taize

Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 43:1-7

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

ALL: **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

Time for Reflection

Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

1 Amazing grace how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Prayers in a Time of Distress

A Prayer for Those who are Caught by Food Insecurity

Hymn

“We Are One in the Spirit”

Peter Scholtes

1 We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity
will one day be restored, *(Refrain)*

Refrain

and they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
and they'll know we are Christians
by our love.

2 We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand,

and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land, *(Refrain)*

3 We will work with each other,
we will work side by side,
we will work with each other,
we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity
and save each one's pride, *(Refrain)*

4 All praise to our Creator,
from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus,
who is God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit,
who makes us one, *(Refrain)*

Benediction

The prayers and music used during the service were written by or adapted from Peter Scholtes, 1966, F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company (Admin. by Lorenz Corporation), Music; “All Saints Day (Year A),” http://www.seasonsonline.ca/files/all-saints-day_cong-life_yr-a.pdf, re: Worship: opening prayer; 10 Prayers for the Church - Powerful Praying Words | iBelieve.com; prayers in times of trouble and disaster(2) 0.pdf; Prayer For Difficult Times | Grace Cathedral; and Jan L. Richardson, <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>.