

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 9, 2025

A Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving for Our Church

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: God was with the people of Israel when they left Egypt.

Many: **God is with us now.**

One: God gave the people hope as they traveled through the desert.

Many: **God gives us the courage to step out in faith.**

One: God is with us wherever we go.

All: **Come, let us worship the Lord. Amen.**

Invocation

Holy God, your power fills the universe with light and love. Your tender hand caresses those who are suffering and wounded. You welcome strangers and care for the lonely. We are awed by the amazing extent of your compassion. Meet us where we are. Speak to us in ways that we understand. Come to us, O God, in our time of worship. Still our hearts and minds. Renew our spirits and fill us with the life that only you can offer. Amen.

Hymn

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Readings from the Letters of Paul

James 1:2-4

Consider it a great joy, my family, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

Philippians 4:6-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Taizé

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

Pastoral Prayers

Hymn

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river in my soul.

I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river in my soul

I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river in my soul.
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river in my soul.

Commission and Benediction

Please join us across the street at Guiteras House for fellowship.

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