

Welcome and Announcements

Deacon

Prelude

I Belong to The King
Ron Loree (based on "King Hall")

Norman McFarlane

Call to Worship

Deacon

One: Holy One, out of a formless void you created a universe teeming with life. Flora, fauna, even the earth itself – into all of them you breathed your Spirit.

All: And you saw that it was good.

One: And out of the earth you created humankind in your image and according to your likeness.

All: And you saw that it was good.

One: And you gave humankind dominion over the earth, so that all your creation could thrive and grow in your Spirit.

All: And you saw that it was very very good.

Gathering Prayer

Deacon

Holy One, you have entrusted your gift of creation to us, to protect and nurture in your name. But in our greed and thoughtlessness, we have used and abused not only the earth but each other. We pray that you will forgive us, enlighten us and bless us with the courage to embrace a new way of being, so that your creation may be restored and once again bloom in your love.

Gathering HymnHoly God, We Praise Your Name*

Below

Message for All

Sarah Pradhan

Joy and Concern cards will be collected by the Deacons

Sing "This Little Light of Mine" as Children proceed to Sunday School.

Scripture

Deacon

As we hear the words of scripture

Let us listen in the words for the Word of God.

Isaiah 65: 17-25

Pew Bible p. 607

The grass withers and the flower fades

But the Word of God shall stand forever

Sermon Message

"Living the Dream"

Rev. Marilyn Sponzo

Choir Anthem

God is Love
John W. Peterson

Choir

Prayers of the People for the World

Rev. Marilyn Sponzo

Lord in your mercy

All: hear our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Marilyn Sponzo

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

Honoring Our Veterans

Slideshow

*Closing Hymn

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

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*Benediction

Rev. Marilyn Sponzo

**Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
Be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
Render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
Support the weak; help the afflicted;
Honor all people; love and serve God;
Rejoicing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen**

*Parting Song

God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again (modified)

**God be with You till we meet again.
By God's counsels guide, uphold you.
God will place arms all around you.
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude

Praise to the Living God!
Todd Kendall

Norman McFarlane

Our guest minister today is Rev. Marilyn Sponzo. Marilyn has been a member of the First Church community for over two decades. After practicing corporate law for thirty years, Marilyn retired and entered Chicago Theological Seminary. She was ordained last May, and currently serves as the hospice chaplain at McLean Health Center. Marilyn's calling – and passion – is serving the elderly, persons with dementia and their caregivers.

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This is an Open and Affirming Church

We affirm the dignity and worth of every person, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, race, mental or physical ability or sexual orientation. We offer sacraments and rites to all who enter our circle of faith. We celebrate the gifts that each person brings to First Congregational Church and invite them to share in all areas of its service, leadership, activities, responsibilities and privileges.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

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Anon., German, c. 1774

Rev. 4:8-11

Transl. Clarence Alphonsus Walworth, 1853; alt.

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Sov - ereign God, we
 2 Hark, the glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,

bow be - fore you; All on earth your scep - ter claim,
 round are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 Three we name you, While in es - sence tru - ly one,

all the heaven - ly hosts a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low; And from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you; So we gath - er

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 joys a - flame: ho - ly, ho - ly is your name.
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 rev - erent - ly to a - dore the mys - ter - y.

This German Catholic hymn, based on the Te Deum Laudamus, appeared with this tune in a hymnal published by command of Austrian empress Maria Theresa. In the nineteenth century it became popular in Protestant worship.

Tune: GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH
 7.8.7.8.7.7.
 Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, c. 1774
 Alt. Johann Gottfried Schicht, 1819