

October 23, 2022

## Order of Worship

10:00am

*An asterisk (\*) indicates times when you are invited to stand. Selections in **BOLD** are responses spoken by the congregation.*

### Welcome and Announcements

Deacon

### Prelude

*Indescribable with Morning Has Broken*  
Carol Tornquist

Laura Murach

### Call to Worship

Deacon

One: We gather to worship,

**All: Coming together from different directions, different experiences, and different lives.**

One: Yet all children of the same Parent,

**All: Created lovingly by the Source of all life!**

One: Each of us with unique, God-given gifts.

**All: Yet one body, the Body of Christ on earth!**

### \*Gathering Hymn

*God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

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### Prayer of Gathering

Deacon

**O God, all people are your beloved. In all the ways we are alike and in all the ways we are different from one another, we are manifestations of your image. Let us delight in the unique gifts you have given each one of us. May we co-create with you a beloved community which looks to the common good, privileges all equally, and celebrates the humanity and the gifts of all.**

### Stewardship Moment

Rev. Darrell Goodwin (video)

### Message for All God's Children

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.**

I Corinthians 12

Pew Bible p. 933

Luke 18: 9-14

p. 853

The grass withers and the flower fades

**But the Word of God shall stand forever**

### Sermon Message

"One or the Other"

Rev. Marilyn Sponzo

### Choir Anthem

*Lead Me, Lord*  
Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876)

Norman McFarlane

### 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 Father, 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.**

## Special Recognition

### \*Closing Hymn

*O Holy Spirit, Root of Life*

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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

*Prelude on "Aurelia"*  
James Pethel (1936- )

Norman McFarlane

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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!