



First Congregational Church of Tallmadge
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Liturgy for the Celebration of Worship

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 1, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Liturgist: Rev. John Phillips

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

WELCOME

The chimes call us to a time of worship

Greeting

Liturgist

Prelude

"Allegro" - G.F. Handel

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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Introit

Leader:

Our help is in the name of the Holy One,

Congregation:

who made heaven and earth.

Leader:

As we have gathered here to worship,
let us stand and greet one another in the
love of Christ.

(Please stand.)

* Gathering Song

"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100



Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joice, and come in.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist

One: When we hunger for justice and thirst for the liberation of all life... When we want for collective flourishing with the entirety of your spirit...

All: **Blessed are we, for our longings will birth the dreams of God.**

One: When we weep with all the world's aches. When we find ourselves filled with sorrow because of what is cruel, what is lost, what is forgotten...

All: **Blessed are we, for God weeps through us.**

One: When we are punished socially or economically for our refusal to go with the flow of normalized evil. When our truth-telling or practices of love leave us isolated or condemned.

All: **Blessed are we, for we offer a glimpse of the Kin-dom of God.**

One: God draws near wherever hearts are open.

All: **Love, come and shape our understanding!**

*Opening Hymn

"We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness"

We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

Dosia Carlson, 1986; rev. 1993

1 We yearn, O Christ, for whole - ness and for your heal-ing touch;
2 We long to have com - pan - ions who trav - el by our side,
3 We need your liv - ing pres - ence, O Christ of Gal - i - lee,

too long have we felt help - less; our bur - dens seemed too much.
strong friends to call and an - swer with whom we are al - lied;
a pres-ence that re - vives us and sets our spir - its free.

For - get - ting all pre - tens - es we make our plead-ings heard,
As we lift up each oth - er when strug-gles lay us low,
No long-er are we fear - ful, your love per - vades each place.

in hope and ex - pec - ta - tion a - wait your gra-cious Word.
com - mu - ni - ty de - vel - ops; our faith and car - ing grow.
Em - pow - er us with cour - age to claim your heal-ing grace.

Dosia Carlson is noted for her ministry at Beatitudes United Church of Christ in Phoenix, Arizona, and for her hymnwriting. This text was inspired by a sermon given by Harold Wilke during the International Year of Persons with Disabilities (1983).

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.
Hans Leo Hassler, 1601
Harm. J. S. Bach, 1719
For another harmonization, see 202

*Opening Prayer

Liturgist

We are afraid, Oh God. Systems of domination swirl around us and we are caught in the whirlwind. Corporate greed destroys ecosystems, causing extreme weather events; we worry for our lives and homes. We mourn clean water and beloved animal kin. We are pulled this way and that, looking for healthcare and housing, trying to survive. Your Spirit moves in provocative ways. Though evil seeks false peace, you shake things up. You turn things upside down. You leave us surprised and inspired. When we are confronted by the radical nature of your love, do not let us push you away or remain unchanged. May we embrace discomfort with joy, that we might be friends of justice and companions to peace. Help to not become numb to another killing, another execution on the streets of the cities of your beloved. May courage accompany our fear. May rest accompany our getting-through. May systems of domination crumble, turn into soil by the work of worms, that New Life may grow. Amen.

Anthem

“Since Jesus Came into My Heart” - arr. Shackley

Chancel Choir, Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children's Message

Wendy Brown

WE LIFT OUR PRAISE & PRAYER TO GOD

Naming our Prayers before God

Moments of Silent Prayer

Intercessory Prayer

HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR THE DAY

Scripture Lessons

First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

³ 'O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.
⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.'
⁶ 'With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'
⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

***Hymn of Preparation**

"We Are Salt for the Earth, O People" vs. 1-2

(words and music on the following page)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:1-12

¹ Now When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Unison

D (allow to ring off)



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit - y of God!
3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
4 We are a blessed and a pil - grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!



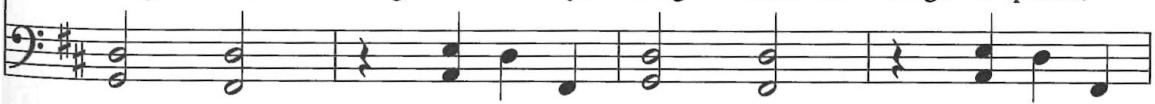
Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the Cit-y of God!



Refrain



Bring forth the reign of mer - cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus - tice, bring forth the Cit - y of God!



During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

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Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain
Marty Haugen, 1986

3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

Sermon

"Gifts That Keep on Giving: The Gift of Poetic Action"
- Rev. Daniel Doty

THE OFFERING

GIVE ONLINE HERE



Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Nocturne" - Felix Mendelssohn

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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(Please stand.)

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of Sacred Solidarity, your love is not neutral. It corrects the imbalances of evil and restores pathways to collective flourishing. Bless our acts of justice and compassion, that they may be deeply rooted in the soil of liberation—no surface-level do-gooding, but focused efforts that up-end all systems of domination. Your grace invites all to come and join in a holy uprising of people who dream of a better way. For all you make possible among us, we bring our gifts with thanks. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION W/ LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING IN THE BREAD AND THE CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

O God, we thank you for uniting us by baptism in the body of Christ and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth; our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world; our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in your service. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE ARE SENT BY GOD TO BE THE GOOD NEWS

***Closing Hymn**

“We Are Salt for the Earth, O People” vs. 3-4
(words and music on page 7)

***Benediction**

***Congregation Response**

**“Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.”**

Go Now in Peace—Besig, © Harold Flammer Music, A division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

Postlude

“Gigue” - Telemann/Simone

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

Tech Team: Anne Pertick, Megan Farnsworth, Scott Newcomer
Liturgist: Rev. John Phillips
Ushers: Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell
Greeters:

THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

We pray for the names listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723. *Bless be God who did not refuse me the kindness I sought in prayer. Psalm*

<i>Brad Ashley</i>	<i>Jim Jackson</i>
<i>Noreen Ashley</i>	<i>John James</i>
<i>Tim Ashley</i>	<i>Nancy Johnson</i>
<i>The Becking Family</i>	<i>Anita Kelly-Lahrmer</i>
<i>Katie Ann Bickett</i>	<i>Zell Lambert</i>
<i>Margarete Boschert</i>	<i>Roberta Lewis</i>
<i>Jim Brown</i>	<i>Ron Mitchell</i>
<i>Patti Calvarese</i>	<i>Bob Poff</i>
<i>Sue Canavan</i>	<i>David and Jackie Parker</i>
<i>Jim Caplinger</i>	<i>LTJG John Norton</i>
<i>Patty Conely</i>	<i>Heather Read</i>
<i>Rylin Davis and family</i>	<i>Richard Reynolds</i>
<i>Sean and Sara Doty</i>	<i>Alice Sheeler</i>
<i>Elaine Engle</i>	<i>Eddie Showalter</i>
<i>Debbie Fickes</i>	<i>Lt. Maxwell Spear</i>
<i>Karen Ford</i>	<i>Richard & Karen Thomason</i>
<i>Darrell Goodson</i>	<i>Kim and Noel Walters</i>
<i>Eleanor Hall</i>	<i>Ensign 2 Kaitlyn Wetter</i>
<i>Alleen Hilbush</i>	<i>Don Woerz</i>

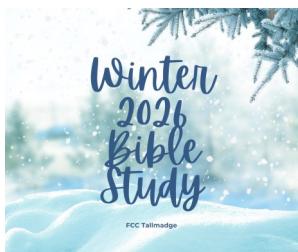
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UPCOMING EVENTS



WINTER BOOK STUDY | WEDNESDAYS, 12PM, BEGINNING, JAN. 14

The Winter 2026 FCC Book Study will be a study of the book "Second Thoughts about Hell: Understanding What We Believe" by Ronald Allen and Robert Cornwall. We have copies of the book available in the church office for \$14. This book study will begin at noon on January 14 in the David Bacon Room. Bring a lunch and bring a friend!



WINTER BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAYS, 1PM, BEGINNING, JAN. 14

The Winter 2026 Bible Study will continue its study of the Christian Scriptures in chronological order. The study will commence on Wednesday, January 14, and begin with 2 Corinthians. We will then go to James and finish with Colossians. The study will take place on Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. A reading list that will allow you to prepare for each class will be distributed on Sunday mornings beginning Dec. 21. See you there!



SUPER BOWL SUB SALE TO SUPPORT YOUTH MISSIONS

Order your Super Bowl Subs this Sunday. All proceeds support Youth Missions. Subs are \$8. See the order form on the following page.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FEBRUARY, VALENTINE'S LUNCH | THUR., FEB. 5, 12 PM– DANNY BOY'S

All women are invited to join your friends for lunch. Sign up in the Atrium today!



ROOTS AND WINGS | SUNDAY, FEB. 15, 4 PM

Roots and Wings is a fellowship group for grandparents and grandchildren to grow in faith and friendship together. This month's activity is a service project.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE | WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, 7 PM

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18th. Begin your Lenten journey with you FCC Family at this special service, including the imposition of ashes.



GET YOUR GAME DAY SUBS!

ORDER STARTING
JAN. 25TH!

\$8

SUBS
REGULAR
VEGGIE



FCC Super Bowl Sub Sale

HELP SUPPORT THE WORK AND OUTREACH OF YOUTH MISSION

Super Bowl Sub Order Form

(return to Anne Pertick)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

*All subs will be dressing free so you can add the dressing of your choice!

Please put the number of subs you wish to order on the line below:

Regular Sub _____ x \$8.00 = \$ _____

Veggie Sub _____ x \$8.00 = \$ _____

Donated Sub _____ x \$8.00 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

I prefer not to order subs but would like to make a monetary donation to the youth mission trip.

\$ _____

Rev. Daniel J. Doty, *Senior Minister*

Nancy Lynn Robinson, *Choir Director/Organist*

Wendy Brown, *Director of Family Ministries*

IN PERSON | PARKING LOT | ONLINE WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Fridays—9:00 am—12:00 pm

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