



First Congregational United Church of Christ

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.
Decatur, Illinois 62526
(217) 877-2216
firstchurchdecatur.org

**Sunday, March 1, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

Second Sunday in Lent + Holy Communion

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026
9:00 A.M.
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT + HOLY COMMUNION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ryan D. Travis, Pastor

PRELUDE "Variations on 'Adore Te, Devote'" (Devoutly I adore You)

arr. Dale Wood Copyright ©1975 The Sacred Music Press ARR
Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #M-400804 All rights reserved

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: In baptism, we are washed wholly and made clean in Christ. Yet as we walk through the world, the dust of sin still clings to us. The Lord who has already bathed us does not cast us away, but stoops repeatedly in mercy to wash our feet. Confession is not a return to condemnation, but a return to cleansing — where Christ forgives, restores, and renews his people. Lent is a time for reflection on our sins and repentance. In our efforts to change and draw nearer to God, we never forget God’s eagerness to forgive and embrace us in Jesus Christ.

SUNG RESPONSE

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

#484 (v. 1)

Taizé Community and Jaques Berthier Copyright ©1982 Le Presse de Taizé (Admin GIA Publications) ARR
Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #M-400804 All rights reserved

O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
Oh, Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me. (2x’s)

***INVOCATION**

Liturgist

All: Lord Jesus Christ, you who stooped to wash the feet of your disciples, cleanse us from the sins that cling to us in our daily lives. Remind us that we are yours, washed and made new in baptism, and draw us again to the mercy that restores and renews. Shape us in humility, repentance, and love, that we may walk in your light and serve in your name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“In Water We Grow”

#678

Brian Wren and Carol F. Shawk. Copyright ©1982, 1993 Hope Publishing Company ARR
Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #M-400804 All rights reserved

***CONFESSION**

Liturgist: Let us call to mind those ways we have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. *(Silence is kept to reflect on our sins.)*

All: Merciful Lord, we confess that though we have been washed and made clean in Christ, we do not walk through this world unstained. The dust of sin clings to us: impatience, selfishness, fear, neglect of others, and failure to love as we ought. We have trusted in ourselves more than in your mercy. We have excused what we should lament and ignored what we should repent. Yet you, O Lord, do not turn away from your baptized children. You continue to serve us with grace. Wash us, cleanse us, restore us. Forgive the sins that burden our consciences and those that have gone unnoticed. Renew us in steadfast faith. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

During the season of Lent, the Words of Assurance are withheld.

***GLORIA PATRI**

#734

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.***

MUSIC MINISTRY

"May the Love of Christ Enfold Us"

Timothy Dudley-Smith & Mary Kay Beall Copyright © 1995 Hope Publishing Company ICS ARR
Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #M-400804 All rights reserved

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Mindy Bunselmeyer

New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®
Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!*

2 Peter 3:18

*GOSPEL READING

John 13:1-17

Liturgist

New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the
United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgist: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John, in the 13th chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash,

except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” ¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Liturgist: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Foot Washing and Forgiveness”

Pastor Ryan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for persistence...

All: 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 forever. Amen.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Pastor: Please rise and join me in confessing what Christians have believed throughout history in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

"Lord Jesus, Think On Me"

arr. David Cherwien Copyright © 1989 Morning Star Music Publishers
Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #M-400804 All rights reserved

***DOXOLOGY**

Old Hundredth

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heav'nly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Liturgist: Gracious Lord, all that we have comes from your hand. As you daily cleanse and sustain us by your mercy, receive these gifts as signs of gratitude and trust. Use them for the work of your kingdom and for the care of those in need. Keep our hearts fixed on Christ, who serves, forgives, and restores.

All: Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Minister: Today we come to the table of Christ, where the Lord who has washed us in baptism meets us again with mercy. Here, in bread and cup, Jesus Christ cleanses, restores, and strengthens his people. As he once knelt to wash the feet of his disciples, so he now renews us in grace, forgiving our sins and binding us together in his love.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Minister: It is our joy and our hope, at all times and in all places, to give thanks to you, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In him you have washed us and made us your own. Yet as we walk through this world, the dust of sin clings to us, and still he does not turn away. Patient and full of mercy, Christ continues to cleanse, forgive, and restore his people. Through him you renew your church, gathering us as one body, reconciled and sustained by grace. Therefore, with the great cloud of witnesses and with all the faithful of every age, we join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord – God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Minister: We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, has given us this memorial of his sacrifice until his coming again. For the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it [here the minister shall break the bread] and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way after supper, he took the cup [here the minister shall lift up the cup], saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” Let us declare the mystery of our faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: Let us pray. Gracious God, send your Holy Spirit upon us, that the bread which we break may be for us the communion of the body of Christ, and the cup which we bless the communion of his blood. As your Son once washed the feet of his disciples, cleanse us again by your mercy. Forgive the sins that trouble our hearts, restore what is broken within us, and renew us in steadfast faith. Shape us into a people marked by humility, repentance, and love, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Unite your church, and sustain us in peace and hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen!

Minister: Beloved in the Lord, this table is prepared for all who love Christ and trust in him for their salvation. This table does not belong to any church or denomination. This table belongs to Jesus Christ, who serves as our host. All who desire to live in his grace and walk in his ways are invited to come to the table of the Lord.

People: We give thanks, O Lord, for these gifts of bread and cup. Renew us in your mercy and strengthen us in your service.

Minister: Come, for all things are made ready.

The bread will be distributed first. Please consume the bread immediately. The wine will be distributed second. The inner rings contain grape juice; the outer rings contain wine. Please hold on to your cup, and we will drink the fruit of the vine together when the pastor says, "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation: Take and drink." Children may commune at an age considered appropriate by their parents or guardians.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Ah Holy Jesus"

arr. Larry Shackley Copyright © 2010 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation ARR
Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #M-400804 All rights reserved

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor Ryan

Pastor: Gracious Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table with the gifts of your body and blood. You have fed us with mercy, strengthened us with grace, and assured us again that we belong to you. As you once washed the feet of your disciples, cleanse us now from the sins that cling to us in our daily lives. Renew our hearts, steady our faith, and guide our steps, that we may walk in your light with humility, repentance, and love. Send us forth in peace, forgiven and restored, to serve you in the world you so dearly love.

People: Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"We Thank You God for Feeding Us"

#707

Michael Perry and Erik Routley Copyright ©1993 Jubilate Hymns (Admin Hope Publishing Company) ARR
Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #M-400804 All rights reserved

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May the LORD bless you and keep you. May the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious. May the LORD look upon you with favor and grant you peace. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

***O God of love, help me to be more loving.
God of forgiveness, help me to forgive.
God of all grace, help me to be more gracious.
God of all gifts, help me more freely give.
O God of truth, help me to work for justice.
O God of mercy, help me to be kind.
O God of peace and goodness, help me serve you,
with all my heart and strength and mind.***

"Benediction" Composed by Laurie Matheson. Used by permission.

POSTLUDE

**"Fugue in d minor"
(from *Eight Little Preludes and Fugues*)**

Johann Sebastian Bach Public domain



March 1, 2026
From Our Prayer Chain
Please Remember in Your Prayers

Joan Wolfram, Katie Elvidge, Larry Huckile, Martha Crookshank,
Clint Whitrock, Robin Reynolds, Doug Travis, Marian Simpson-Rorick,
Helen Johnson, Steve Martin, Kelly Gonzalez, Dean Lorbach,
Robert Bean, Norma Morrison, Tom Irwin, Margaret,
Diana Kitchell, Jennifer K, Brad Johnson, Becky Corbin,
Nancy Leoucis, Marilee Gordon, Letsa, Randy Habbe,
Eric Wolfram, Don S, Mary Stewart, Murray Elliott,
John & Lois Pennock, Preston Wikoff, Richard Laswell, Amanda,
Ellen Heavner, Bruce Powell, Gina Birrittier, Tom Cooley,
Matt & Theresa Family, Olivia Wernecke Dees, Kerry Waltenbaugh,
Glenn Wolfram, Sara Foreman, Jerrold Fallstrom, Marsha Mower,
Laura Ylander, Pat Woodcock, Erika Kelley, Meg Phillips, Fred Powell,
Sally, Robby Moore, Shelly Long, Michelle, Mathew Clary,
Gary Heymen, Lexi Boyer, Erica Moster, Aunt Sharon, David Marshal,
Melinda & Roger Redman, Steve Centola, Jason Mumm,
Jonathan Downey, Julie Bond, Norma Lingenfelter, Rick Beir,
Beth Sierens, PJ Patterson, Andrew & Faith Davis, Sheila S,
Darin DeNeal Family, Mike & Lilly Beth Smith, Matt Jordan,
Malinda Callaway, Steve Morrison, Ty Ditty, Lexi Boyer,
Patsy Habbe, Aaron & Dean Duncan