



# First Congregational Church of Anoka United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

November 19, 2023 ♦ 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



This bulletin is designed to assist you as you watch our livestreamed worship service, whether you follow along live or view it at a later time. The stream can be found on our YouTube channel at this location:

<https://www.youtube.com/@AnokaUCC>

## Welcome & Announcements

*If you are a guest with us today, welcome! If you are comfortable sharing your information with us, there are cards in the pew holders that you can use for that purpose (place them in the offering plate).*

*If you would like to join our mailing list, email [office@uccanoka.org](mailto:office@uccanoka.org) and ask to be added.*

## Choral Prelude

### “Harvest Song”

K. Davis

*Anoka UCC Chancel Choir; Don Shier, Director*

***This song will also be sung at tonight’s Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Lord of Life Church at 6:30pm.***

*To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise in hymns of adoration;  
to thee bring sacrifice of praise with shouts of exultation.  
Bright robes of gold the fields adorn, the hills with joy are ringing.  
The valleys stand so thick with corn that even they are singing.  
And now on this our festal day, thy bounteous hand confessing,  
upon thine altar, Lord, we lay the first fruits of thy blessing.  
By thee the souls of men are fed with gift of grace supernal.  
Thou who dost give us daily bread, give us the bread eternal.  
Sing alleluia. O blessed is that land of God where saints abide forever.  
Where golden fields are fair and broad, where flows the crystal river.  
The strains of all its holy throne with ours today are blending.  
O blessed is that harvest sing that never has an ending. Amen.*

## \* Opening Hymn

“Saint Cecilia Who Dost Sing” (page 6)

## Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 150)

One: Praise God! Praise God in this sanctuary! Praise God in our hearts!

**Many: Praise God with trumpet sound!**

One: Praise God with lute and with harp!

**Many: Praise God with tambourine and dance!**

One: Praise God with strings and pipe!

**Many: Praise God with clanging cymbals and voices raised in song!**

One: Let everything that breathes praise God with a joyful noise!

**Many: Praise God! Amen!**

### A Time for Children

*ADVISORY: The livestream of the service continues during the Children's Time;  
if your child sits facing the Pastor their face shouldn't appear on camera.*

### Blessing of the Musicians

God, our creator, we thank you for giving joy and delight to your Church through those who are skilled in music. Lead them to develop more and more the gifts that You have given them, to dedicate their talents to your worship, and to serve your people in humility. Bless the hands who play piano, organ, handbells, string and woodwind instruments and percussion. Bless the voices who sing the texts that bring us closer to you. Make us grateful for their efforts, and move us to encourage and support them. Use them to bring echoes and reflections of your beauty to the ears and eyes of many, that having experienced your beauty, they may also seek your goodness and truth, to the glory of Christ our Lord. Amen, and **Amen!**

### Hymn of Blessing

“When in Our Music God is Glorified” #561 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

**When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,  
it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!**

**How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,  
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!**

**Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!**

### Choir Anthem

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

Healey Willan

*Anoka UCC Chancel Choir; Don Shier, Director*

***This song will also be sung at tonight's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service  
at Lord of Life Church at 6:30pm.***

*Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise!  
By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.*

*By him the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring,  
the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.  
He filleth with his fullness, all things with large increase;*

he crowns the year with goodness, with plenty, and with peace.

Heap on his sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,  
the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls he died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before him when at his feet ye fall,  
and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.

Children ages 3 and up may depart at this time for faith formation activities.  
Activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary for those who might enjoy them.

Scripture Reading – Psalm 100-101:1a

Lector, **Congregation**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth. Worship God with gladness; come into God's presence with singing. Know that God is the Creator. It is she that made us, and we are hers; we are her people, and the sheep of her pasture. Enter her gates with thanksgiving, and her courts with praise. Give thanks to God, bless her name. For God is good; her steadfast love endures forever, and her faithfulness to all generations. **I will sing of loyalty and of justice; to you, O God, I will sing.**

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor Kelsey Renk

A Special Invitation

Don Shier, UCCMA President

*One Dream. Many Voices.*

**The music is richer when all voices are heard.  
Join us in our mission to elevate music in  
congregations across the nation.**

**GIVING TUESDAY**  
November 28, 2023

United Church  
of Christ  
Musicians  
Association

Offering

Text-to-Give: [844-334-1477](tel:844-334-1477)

Thank you for your gifts to our ministries!  
If you are watching from home (live or later), please consider adding to the Offering  
by sending your gifts by mail, text, or online ([uccanoka.org/donate](http://uccanoka.org/donate)).  
You can support the church further through the RaiseRight program:  
[www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com). Our unique church ID is gWKLGX8TRZCN.

Offertory

Koki Sato

\* Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God” #419

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,  
who, from our parents’ arms, has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,  
to Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

Prayers of the People

*If you wish to share a prayer at this time, please raise your hand and a microphone will be brought to you.*

Prayer of Our Savior (unison)

*The Prayer has many versions; pray whichever you desire (debts, sins, trespasses, etc.).  
We affirm that God has many names, so use one of the suggested or another of your choosing.*

**Our Father/Mother/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, forever. Amen.**

\* Benediction

\* Congregational Blessing

“God Be With You” (#809)

Dorsey/Hutchins

**God be with you. God be with you. God be with you 'til we meet again.  
O God be with you. God be with you. God be with you 'til we meet again.**

Postlude

Koki Sato

*You may be seated as you listen to the Postlude. If you choose to depart at this time,  
please speak gently as you exit out of respect for those who choose to listen.*

## **COFFEE HOUR IS SERVED BETWEEN SERVICES.**

### Acknowledgements

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### **◆ First Congregational Church UCC, Anoka, MN ◆**

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Minister of Visitation – Pastor Kelsey Renk

Director of Health Ministries – Jessie Waks, NP

Director of Music Ministries – Don Shier

Keyboardist – Koki Sato

Moderator – Terja Larsen

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Text-to-Give: 844-334-1477



*First Congregational Church, UCC of Anoka is an Open and Affirming Christian Community for all. We affirm that the image of God is most fully reflected in diversity. We invite all people to share their energy and talents in full participation with our community. We welcome all individuals and families of any sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, race, national origin, socioeconomic status, age, mental and physical health or ability, or belief. Together, we celebrate these and all other facets of one's essential being.*

1. Saint Ce - ci - lia, who dost sing  
2. Thou to mu - sic gave thy pow'rs,  
3. In - spi - ra - tion still it brings,

Praise for - ev - er to the King, Make our hearts thy  
It will aid in dark - est hours, Mu - sic, the di -  
Dull - est word it lend - eth wings; Thou who heav'n - ly

in - stru - ment, In His ser - vice ev - er spent.  
vin - est art, For in Heav'n it hath a part. A - men.  
choirs dost lead, Saint Ce - ci - lia, for us plead.

4. Thou whose life was charity,  
Help us to be more like thee,  
Thou who martyr's crown didst wear,  
Hear and grant our fervent prayer.

5. May we sing while life shall last,  
May we sing till death is past,  
May we sing when Heaven is won,  
Praise to God, Great Three in One.