**

January 15, 2023

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**An Open and Affirming Church**

Church and Algiers Streets

PO Box 48

Murphys, CA 95247

209-728-3141

email: nugget@fccmurph.org

[www.fccmurph.org](http://www.fccmurph.org)

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

\* Indicates congregation may stand.

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Jack Schrader

ENTRANCE OF LIGHT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Friends, let us come to God in this present hour, lifting our voices in praise.

**ALL: We praise YOU, Holy One, with voices rich in gladness and joy. We also celebrate YOU with voices hoarse with questions.**

One: We come to worship because we can bring our true selves, our whole beings, and God is ready for us.

**ALL: We praise you, God, with voices soft with worry and tones of confidence that you hear us.**

One: We praise God with all of our hearts and trust You, our Creator, for all that we hope to be.

\*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**ALL: Loving God, for all of us who are pilgrims searching for a home, those of us whose souls are weary and longing for rest, we come knowing this is a place of healing and homecoming. In this hour, may we find your grace and mercy, and may we lean on you and one another as we follow Jesus. Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God* #12

CALL TO FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS (unison)

**ALL: O God, whose love will not let us go, guard our hearts this day as we long to grow into your mercy. Open our eyes to the ways we hold your love only for ourselves. Empower our hearts to reach out to others and hear their pain. Forgive us when we turn a deaf ear to the cries of people who need us. Stir us to live into your grace and share with everyone we meet. In the name of Jesus who loves us, Amen.**

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’s GRACE

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

1. ***This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine, (x 3)***

***Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

2.  ***Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine (x3)***

***Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

\*PASSING OF CHRIST’S PEACE

**The Peace of Christ be with you all.**

**And also with you.**

**HEARING THE WORD**

We are ready to hear what God will say to us.

FAMILY TIME

(Children and families of all ages are invited to come to the altar area with Pastor Bonnie.)

SCRIPTURE Psalm 40:1-11 OT, page 486,

pew Bible

ANTHEM

*God’s Eye Is on the Sparrow* C. Gabriel

Mary Kelly, Solo

SERMON

*God’s Mercy and Love are Great!* Pastor Bonnie

\*HYMN*Precious Lord, Take My Hand* #472

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

*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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Let us not fall into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Larry Shackley

\*OFFERING RESPONSE

*Thank You, We Thank You, God 1* Barbara Hamm



\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**ALL: Merciful and Loving God, may our lives reflect the praises we sing. We have received grace upon grace, so may we live in grace with one another. We have received forgiveness, so we may forgive. We have received gifts far beyond our need, so we are happy to give. Bless these gifts today and use them to bring love and peace to our world. In the name of the one who shows us the way, Amen.**

**SENDING**

\*HYMN *I’m So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me* #474

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION SONG Music by Imogene Whipple

***May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep you forever;***

***Grant you peace, perfect peace, Courage in every endeavor.***

***Lift up your eyes and see God’s face, And God’s***

***grace forever;***

***May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep you forever.***

**taking the light of christ INTO THE WORLD**

We are the light of the world. Let us go forth in response to hearing God speaking to us.

POSTLUDE *Pasticcio* Jean Langlais

DISMISSAL: Go in peace serving others!

ALL: We go forth with joy!

*Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Social Hall following the service.*

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bonnie Hollinger

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. John Randlett

Music Director: Dr. Daryl Hollinger

Liturgist: Barbara Olivier

Ushers: Karl Graves and Crew

Audio/Visual: Shad Sundberg

Children’s Sunday School Teacher: Patty Haskell

Child Care: Shayanna DuCharme

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Jan. 16 –** Exec Committee meeting 10am

**Jan. 17 –** F&F meeting 1:30 via Zoom

**Jan. 17 -** Family Program 5:30 – 7:30

\*please RSVP to Patty if you’ve not already done so\*

Text

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