



**First Congregational**  
United Church of Christ

## **SEPTEMBER 12 WORSHIP SERVICE**

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Pastor Scott

- First Congregational UCC, Downers Grove Futures Working Group guided by their consultant Convergence, has designed an assessment (survey) to help our visioning process as we continue to deal with a transitioning pandemic. The survey will be sent by email within the next week.
- Sunday, September 19 following worship, around 11 a.m. until 7 p.m., we want to take our Jr. and Sr. High youth to Iron Oaks to participate in the High Ropes Course (<https://ironsoaks.com/>). Iron Oaks does require our reservations and the money must be paid to secure our spot. Please e-mail Pastor Michelle if you would like more information and to sign up by Wednesday, September 15!

### PRELUDE – Justin Kono

### OPENING SONG – *Love the Lord* by Lincoln Brewster – Music Ministry

#### Lyrics:

Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart  
With all your soul, with all your mind  
And with all your strength

Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart  
With all your soul, with all your mind  
And with all your strength

With all your heart, with all your soul  
With all your mind, with all your strength

Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart  
With all your soul, with all your mind  
And with all your strength

I will serve the Lord with all my heart  
With all my soul, with all my mind  
And with all my strength

I will serve the Lord with all my heart  
With all my soul, with all my mind  
And with all my strength

With all my heart, with all my soul  
With all my mind, with all my strength

I will serve the Lord with all my heart  
With all my soul, with all my mind  
And with all my strength

I will love You (I will love You)  
I will praise You (I will praise You)  
I will serve You (I will serve You)  
I will trust You (I will trust You)

With all my heart, with all my soul  
With all my mind, with all my strength  
With all my heart, with all my soul  
With all my mind, with all my strength  
I will love You, Lord with all my heart  
With all my soul, with all my mind  
And with all my strength

I will love You, Lord with all my heart  
With all my soul, with all my mind  
And with all my strength

CALL TO WORSHIP – (Responsive) Pastor Michelle

God we give you thanks this morning for the gift of gathering and being able to be together.

**Thank You God for the beauty of this day and the kindness of my neighbor.**

We give thanks for teachers, both those who are trained in the classroom and for those who, without degrees, teach us powerful lessons of life.

**For every person who's ever encouraged and built us up for every person who has pushed us to be something more and for everyone who has brought us deeper into our relationship with God we give thanks this day. Amen.**

MINISTRY PRESENTATION – Christian Community

DEDICATION OF CORNELIA BURKE – Pastors Scott and Michelle

DEDICATION SONG – *You Are the New Day* by John David – Music Ministry

PRAYER AND GIFT – Congregational Care

SCRIPTURE READING – James 3:1-12 NRSV – Jerry Topel

“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine, figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.”

SERMON SONG – *Mean Girls* by Leanna Crawford – Music Ministry

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

MESSAGE – *Watch Your Mouth!* – Pastor Scott

OFFERTORY – Pastor Michelle

OFFERTORY SONG – *The Words I Would Say* by David Frey – Music Ministry

DOXOLOGY –

To God, all glorious heavenly light,  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise,  
Our joyful song of thankful praise.

PRAYER – Pastor Michelle  
The Lord's Prayer

CLOSING SONG – #698 *Let us Talents and Tongues Employ* – Music Ministry

Lyrics:

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:  
Bread is broken the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard

Jesus lives again, we can breathe again,  
Pass the word around: loaves abound.

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Jesus lives again, we can breathe again,  
Pass the word around: loaves abound.

BENEDICTION – Pastor Scott

POSTLUDE – *Everlasting God* by Lincoln Brewster – Music Ministry

Lyrics:

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
Wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
Wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord

Our God, you reign forever. Our hope, our one deliverer.  
You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God  
You do not faint, you won't grow weary.  
You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
Wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
Wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord

Our God, you reign forever. Our hope, our one deliverer.  
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