Our Mission:
To embody God’s love for all by living an active faith in service to others.

We Gather to Affirm God’s Presence in Our Lives

May the God we sing to, pray to, and speak to throughout the day bless you and keep you safe.

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship
Leader: O God, open our eyes
Unison: To behold your presence
Leader: O God, open our ears
Unison: To hear your voice
Leader: O God, open our hearts
Unison: To receive your love
Leader: O God, open our lips
Unison: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Invitation to Confession

Confession
Unison: Gracious God, bless us with accurate self-sight: we think of ourselves more highly or more lowly than we ought. Forgive us for looking the other way when we know what is happening is wrong. Give
us the courage to work for the good even when it means sacrifice on our part. Give us a sense of shame and outrage with injustice wherever we find it. Give us the strength to admit our sin for we would live in the freedom of the forgiven. Make us into the people you wish us to be, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

SILENCE (be as specific as you wish)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN What a Covenant verses 1-2 NCH 471

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

READING
Covenant. We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God and to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We join together as a covenantal community to celebrate and share our common communion and the reassurance that we are indeed created by God, reconciled in Christ, and empowered by the grace of the Holy Spirit. We welcome all into our faith community as brothers and sisters in Christ. We welcome into the full life and ministry of this church people of any race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, economic status, or physical or mental condition.
(From ARTICLE IV. Doctrine, Faith, and Covenant, CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS [of] FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST DeKalb, Illinois)

GOSPEL READING John 14: 15-17

15 “If you love me, you will keep[a] my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,[b] to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in[c] you.
25-27
25 “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate,[a] the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace
I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER
Unison: 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

HYMN O God in Whom All Life Begins verses 1,2 NCH 401

SERMON Covenantal Conversations

HYMN When Peace Like a River verses 1,4 NCH 438

BENEDICTION

PRAYER
O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths on which we have not walked, through troubles we do not yet know. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your Spirit is leading us and your love supporting us. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
[Call to Worship adapted from David Adam]

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SERVING THE CONGREGATION TODAY
Ministers: All of Us
Pastor: Alan McNamara
Organist: Brian Kowalski
Singers: Ashley Kelly, Grace Klonoski, and Olivia Klonoski
Liturgist: Mike Groark
Video:
Audio: Tom Spielman
Sexton: Tom Spielman
1 What a covenant, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms.
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms.

last- ing arms. What a blessing, what a peace is mine, leaning last- ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning last- ing arms? I have bless- ed peace with my Sav- ior near, leaning

Refrain

on the ever- lasting arms.
on the ever- lasting arms. Lean- ing, lean- ing, safe and secure from on the ever- lasting arms.

all alarms; lean- ing, lean- ing, leaning on the ever- lasting arms.
O God in Whom All Life Begins

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1992

1 O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,
   bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.

2 Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts
   that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.

3 Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care;
   so bind us in community that we may risk and dare.

Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;
So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name

Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing, and pray,

deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.
that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.

then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.
When Peace, Like a River
(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19–23; 2:13–14; 3 John 1:2
Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.

1 When peace, like a river, upholds me each day, when
2 Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come, let
3 My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—my
4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

sorrows like sea billows roll, Whatever my lot, you have
this blessed assurance control, That Christ has regarded my
sin—not in part, but the whole—Is nailed to the cross and I
clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trumpet shall sound and the

taught me to say, “It is well, it is well with my soul.”
helpless estate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall appear, “even so”—it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul.