



First Congregational Church of Evanston
Hinman and Grove Evanston, Illinois 60201
founded 1869

FATHERS DAY **June 15, 2008**
HONORING OUR SABBATH SERVANT LEADERS **10:00 a.m.**

*At First Congregational Church, worship begins with the Prelude.
We invite you to use this time for silence, prayer, and meditation.*

Prelude *Hear Ye, Israel! (Elijah)* Felix Mendelssohn
(Cindy Senneke, soprano)

Opening Words from Romans 5

Kindling the Light

Introit *Ye People, Rend Your Hearts (Elijah)* Mendelssohn
If With All Your Hearts
(Eric Perkins, tenor)

****Please rise as you are able.****

Call to Worship (Leader; People) from Psalm 116

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice and my supplications, who has inclined an ear to me.

Let us call upon the Lord as long as we live.

What shall I return to the LORD for all the bounty I have received?

**Let us lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD,
paying vows to the LORD in the presence of the people.**

O LORD, I am your servant, and you have loosed my bonds.

In the courts of the house of the LORD, even here, let us praise the LORD!

Hymn *God Is Here!* **No. 461**

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

God of tender mercies, you have baptized us into union with Christ Jesus, so that through his death and resurrection we too might live a new life as your children. In saying this we are reminded how many of our ways have been unjust and unmerciful. We have turned away from oppression, distanced ourselves from scenes of pain, and shut ourselves off from cries in desert places where the homeless and the helpless dwell. Forgive us for the selfishness and narrowness that have kept us from so many others of your children. Reside among us, and return us to where we are needed. Assure us of your grace and lead us to give thanks in Christ's name. Amen.

Singing God's Glory (responsive) *Glory to God* Peruvian melody

Minister: Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!

People: Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!

Minister: To God be glory forever!

People: To God be glory forever!

Group 1: Alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen! (sing 3 times)

Group 2: Alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen! (sing 2 times)

Group 3: Alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen! (sing once)

Ritual of Greeting (Passing the Peace)

You may be seated.

Welcome, Announcements and Signing of Friendship Pads

Scripture Readings

From the Hebrew Scriptures Genesis 18:1–15

While her husband Abraham is entertaining mysterious guests, 90-year-old Sarah overhears that she will become pregnant... and laughs.

From the Epistles Romans 5:1–8

Paul contends that suffering has its upside.

Anthem *He, Watching Over Israel (Elijah)* Mendelssohn

Disciple Dialogue

****Please rise as you are able for the Hymn.****

Hymn *Children of the Heavenly Father* C. V. Sandell-Berg
(see insert)

Sermon "Laughable Parenthood" Rev. David Denoon

Prayers of the People and Prayer of Our Savior

Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer *Let My Prayer Rise Like Incense* David Lornson

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior

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 for ever. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts

Invitation

Offertory *O Rest in the Lord (Elijah)* Mendelssohn
(Beth Babbitt, alto)

Please rise as you are able.

Song of Praise

Doxology

Tune: OLD 100TH

Most people have memorized a doxology to this tune.

You may sing your favorite words, or use these, which the Minister is singing:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures, here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Honoring Our Sabbath Servant Leaders

INTRODUCTION

HONORING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

We have made our sincere purpose, that Christ should be our leader and example, and that our rule of life should be the commandments, to love the Lord with all our hearts, and our neighbors as ourselves. You have worked to teach our children these things by word and example. With the offerings we are making from our own labors, we celebrate the abundant gifts you have brought for service to God.

HONORING OUR CHANCEL CHOIR

You have lifted our spirits by lifting your voices, have enlightened our vision and guided our prayers, you have sung of the loving-kindness of the only One worthy of our praise, whose name and image we share. With the offerings we are making from our own labors, we celebrate the abundant gifts you have brought for service to God.

BENEDICTION, FOR A SEASON

For all the gifts we are able to offer, thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn

This Is My Father's World

No. 293

Parting Words

“Sent Out in Jesus’ Name”

Anon., from the Spanish

The Light Goes Forth

Postlude

For the Mountains Shall Depart (Elijah)
(Tom Hall, baritone)

Mendelssohn

Thank you for worshiping with us today! During the Postlude, worshipers are free to be seated again quietly, or to exit the Sanctuary. Out of respect for those who may be offering a silent prayer, talking is discouraged until you have reached the Narthex.

**ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE
FROM AN USHER**

We invite visitors to join us for refreshments and fellowship on the Portico after worship today, weather permitting. Refreshments today are a light, potluck lunch prepared by members of the church in honor of our “Sabbath Servant Leaders.”

Children are always welcome in worship. For families who desire it, an attended infant room with a changing table, crib and comfortable rocker is located at the east end of the lower level. An usher will be happy to escort you, if needed.

A peace rose is placed on our altar to remind us of the ongoing pursuit of peace and justice in our troubled world. *Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5:24)*

You are welcomed and seated today by Jean Herbert, Tom and Joan Lindsey, Randy Wait, and Cherie Weil.

The greeter today is Martha Beckwith.

Our lay reader today is Deborah Shamlin, Director of Religious Education.

Thank you to the Membership Team for hosting today’s reception in honor of our Choir and Sunday School Teachers!

The chancel flowers are donated by Jeff Roseberry and Bernice Valantinas in memory of their fathers, Floyd Roseberry and Alfonse Gecas.

Our known homebound members include: Esther Brandenburg, Kay Clark, Jean Davies, Bud Goff, John Hands, Marye Belle Hart, Dixie Hoffman, Esther McGinnis, Irv Newgren, Dorothy Nix, Franklin and Pat Snyder, Nina Stevens and Mary Fran Symonds. Please inform the pastor or church office if we have missed anyone.

Please Help Support Sanctuary Organ Repairs – After 80 years of faithful service, our historic 1927 Skinner pipe organ is in need of repair. The tops of white keys are coming unglued and falling off. Erickson, Christian, and Associates, the respected Chicago company that has been servicing our organ, has submitted a proposal to replace all 108 white key tops on the three manuals. Our goal is to raise \$7500, or \$70 per key. If you are able to help underwrite the cost of this important repair, your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Any financial assistance – large or small – could be made payable by check to the First Congregational Church with the memo “organ repair.” Please contact David Lornson, Director of Music, if you have further questions. **Pick a key, any key, and help us reach our goal! Thanks to all who have already contributed. To date we have raised \$4655 which covers 66.5 keys.**

Today’s service features music from “Elijah” by Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1947). This oratorio, composed in 1846, depicts events in the life of the Biblical prophet Elijah, with texts taken from 1 Kings and 2 Kings in the Hebrew Bible. Elijah, a prophet in Israel in the 9th

century BC, appears in the Hebrew Bible, Talmud, Mishnah, Christian Bible, and the Qur'an. According to the Books of Kings, Elijah raised the dead, brought fire down from the sky, and ascended into heaven on a chariot. In the Christian Bible, both Jesus and John the Baptist are on some occasions thought to be Elijah, the latter actually being described by the Archangel Gabriel as coming "in the spirit and power of Elijah" (Luke 1:17); he is also one of two Hebrew Bible figures (along with Moses) who appears and converses with Jesus during his Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36). Elijah's legacy continues on in many traditions and beliefs. He is a major part of the Jewish *brit milah* and Passover ceremonies, as well as traditions involving Lillith and the angel Sandalphon. In Eastern Europe, he is known as "Elijah the Thunderer" and is blamed in folklore for poor weather. For more music by Mendelssohn, don't miss the Robinson Recital next Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m. in the Guild Room of the Church House, 1417 Hinman. The program includes his Trio in D Minor for piano, violin, and cello.

*Thank you to the following
Sunday School teachers for all
their hard work and constant
dedication:*



*Sharyn Julcher - Preschool
Travis Clifton - K - 5th grades
Lacey Ogbolumani and Kwesi Steele
6th and 7th grades
Jens Notstad - 8th - 12th grades*

Save the Dates!!

SUNDAYS UP AND COMING!

- **June 15 – Fathers Day** and “**Honoring**” **Sunday** – in addition to the expected honoring of fathers in and of our congregation, we will celebrate the remarkable work of our Sunday School teachers and Chancel Choir, all of whom since this past September have been setting aside their worship time in order to lead major parts of the liturgical and educational life of the church. Special refreshments will be served on the portico afterward.
- **June 22** – *Sermon working title and synopsis: **Progressive Christianity*** – A close examination of the works of the apostle Paul reveals his understanding of the resurrection of Jesus becoming broader and richer with the passing years. What does this indicate for the development of our contemporary religion and worldview?
- **June 29** – *Sermon working title and synopsis: **I Don't Feel No Ways Tired*** – Prof. Bart Ehrman and Bishop N. T. Wright are at loggerheads over whether God is worthy of our worship, or even exists. Referring to their weblog debate on Beliefnet.net, we will examine the righteousness of God in the jarring light of Abraham's near-sacrifice of Isaac.
- **July 6** – *Worship presentation: **God Bless the Whole World*** – An exploration, in music and commentary, of the American civil religion in light of Christianity. Musical selections include “God Bless America,” “This Land Is Your Land,” and “America the Beautiful,” among others.
- **July 13, 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.** – ***Summer Christian Education Pilot Program begins!*** at the Church House, 1417 Hinman Ave., where Sunday School for adults and children will be conducted concurrently. Adults and Senior High students will focus on Christian mission and action with ***Beyond Your Backyard***. Prepare to have your consciousness raised. Children preschool through grade 6, will be ***Surfin' the Scriptures***. Junior High students will go for a ***Hop, Skip and Jump Through The Bible***. Classes will meet weekly from 9:00 until 9:45 a.m., through August 31. **Cereal and Coffee Bar** will be available at 8:45. Infant and toddler care will be provided at the Church House also, during this time. *Come join us!*



*We thank the members of the Chancel Choir for their
hard work, dedication,
and inspiring music this past season.*

Chancel Choir Members 2007-2008

SOPRANOS:

Aspasia Apostolakis, Jessica Don, Sheran Fiedler, Lyn Page, Juliet Rago, Liz Rorke, *Cindy Senneke, Patty Sprague, Anne Trompeter

ALTOS:

*Beth Babbitt, Megan Bauer, Laurie Brown, Pam Daniels, Jennifer French, Rhonda Storm, Peggy Tinzmann, Laura Wilson

TENORS:

Andy Nelson, Nathan Pedretti, *Eric Perkins, John Robertson, Yuan Shen

BASSES:

Justin Bauer, Kingsley Day, Bob Gaskill, Gary Hardesty,
*Tom Hall, Jeff Roseberry, Hal Sprague

*Soloist/Section Leader

GUIDE POSTS

Sunday, June 15 – Fathers Day and “Honoring” Sunday

9:00 A.M. CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL (CHANCEL)
10:00 A.M. WORSHIP (SANCTUARY)
11:15 A.M. HONORING RECEPTION (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

Tuesday, June 17

10:00 A.M. STAFF MEETING (CONFERENCE ROOM)
7:00 P.M. COMMUNICATIONS MEETING (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Sunday, June 22

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP (SANCTUARY)
11:30 A.M. CONFIRMATION PARTNERS (YOUTH ROOM)
3:00 P.M. ROBINSON RECITAL (GUILD ROOM)

Monday, June 23

7:00 P.M. HUMAN RESOURCES (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Tuesday, June 24

10:00 A.M. STAFF MEETING (CONFERENCE ROOM)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EVANSTON

1445 Hinman Avenue (at Grove Street)
mailing address: 1417 Hinman Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Phone: (847) 864-8332 Fax: (847) 864-2143

Email: info@firstchurchevanston.org

Website: www.FirstChurchEvanston.org

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. David A. Denoon, *Senior Minister* (ddenoon@firstchurchevanston.org)
Deborah J. Shamlin, *Director of Religious Education* (dshamlin@firstchurchevanston.org)

David Lornson, *Director of Music* (dlornson@firstchurchevanston.org)

Melia Pappas, *Office Manager* (mpappas@firstchurchevanston.org)

Jens Notstad, *Youth Director* (jnotstad@firstchurchevanston.org)

Joe Page, *Moderator*; Laima Day, *Vice Moderator*

CHANCEL CHOIR SOLOISTS

Cindy Senneke, *soprano* Beth Babbitt, *alto*

Eric Perkins, *tenor* Tom Hall, *bass*