



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

June 22, 2008

10:00 a.m.

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

Prelude *St. Anthony Chorale* Johannes Brahms
Opening Words from Psalm 86

Kindling the Light

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

Call to Worship (Leader; **People**) *Baptized into New Life*
 Symeon the New Theologian, 949-1022

I waken in Christ's body as Christ awakens my body, and my poor hand is Christ.

Christ enters my foot, and is infinitely me.

I move my hand, and wonderfully my hand becomes Christ, becomes all of Christ
 (for God is indivisibly whole, seamless in the Godhead).

I move my foot, and at once Christ appears like a flash of lightning.

Do my words seem blasphemous? — Then open your heart and let yourself
 receive the One who is opening to you so deeply.

For if we genuinely love Christ, we wake up inside Christ's body

Where all our body, all over, every most hidden part of it, is realized in joy,

And Christ makes us utterly real,

And everything that is hurt, everything that seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful,
 maimed, ugly, irreparably damaged, is in Christ transformed and recognized as
 whole, as lovely, and radiant.

In Christ's light we awaken as the Beloved in every last part of our body.

Hymn *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* No. 281 (vv. 1, 2)

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

**Be resurrected in us, O Christ. For though once we ourselves seemed dead,
 we have wakened again by your grace and at your call. Just as you have
 rolled the stone away, we would also set aside those deathly ways that once
 closed us in – our petty desires, our fears and anxieties, all those parts about
 us that once caused separation between us and you. Now, all we want is to be
 alive again with you. So, by your Holy Spirit come to us here, be born anew
 in us now, and we shall rise with you and show forth the glory of our God.
 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 21:8–21
 After Isaac is born, Abraham abandons Sarah's slave Hagar and his son by her, Ishmael. They nearly
 dehydrate in the wilderness, but find water at the last moment.

From the Epistles Romans 6:1b–11
 Paul takes Jesus' resurrection as a metaphor that can be applied as a principle for living day-to-day.

Disciple Dialogue Matthew 10:28–31

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

Hymn *God of Our Life* No. 275

Sermon "Progressive Christianity" Rev. David Denoon

Prayers of the People and Prayer of Our Savior

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayers

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 *Adagio (Sonata in F minor)* Johannes Brahms
 (Gary Hardesty, clarinet)

****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.

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

From your bounty we all have received, and by your grace we all can give.

As a simple sign of thanksgiving, for the purpose and the labor you have made possible through us, we offer these gifts for others. Bless our offerings as you have blessed our hearts. Let them extend our reach into the world that you would make your own, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

Words, No. 330

Tune, No. 434

Parting Words

“I No Longer Am Afraid of Death”

Julia Esquivel

The Light Goes Forth

Postlude

Herzlich tut mich erfreuen

Johannes Brahms

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 Lacey Ogbolumani, Hal Sprague, Cherie Weil, Sandy Whiteley, and Steve Wilson.

The greeters today are Peggy and Otto Tinzmann.

Our lay reader today is Cherie Weil.

Thank you to Barb Ferguson for hosting today’s coffee hour.

The chancel flowers are donated by Hal and Patty Sprague in memory of Lucy Ruffin Sprague, Tom Shaw, and Edward Meade Sprague.

Congratulations to Tom and Jean Stafford as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Special thanks to Gary Hardesty for sharing his gift of music.

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 \$5655 which covers 81 keys.**

Today’s service features music composed by Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897) who was a famous German composer of the Romantic period. He was born in Hamburg, and in his later years settled in Vienna, Austria. The prelude is a piano transcription of a section of Brahms' composition “Variations on a Theme by Joseph Haydn.” This theme may sound familiar to Northwestern alumni since it was also used as the melody for the school's song. The Postlude is Brahms’ setting of a 16th century German melody and text which praises God for the gifts of summertime.

Photos and stories about First Congregational

Many of you have captured wonderful photos of people and events in our church community. We would like to put a human face on the activities of our congregation by featuring some of these photos and stories on our website (<http://www.firstchurchevanston.org/>).

To participate, email your photos and stories to Nathan Pedretti, our website coordinator, at nathan.pedretti@gmail.com. There is no deadline for submitting materials. We will try to use as many of the submissions as possible.

Quarterly Congregational meeting
Next Sunday
June 29
Immediately following worship

Save the Dates!!

SUNDAYS UP AND COMING!

- **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!*

COME ONE, COME ALL

Summer Yard Sale

WHAT???

A summer yard sale!

When: Saturday, June 28

Where: Church House lawn

Time: 9:00 am to 3 pm

Items for sale, but not limited to:

- ❖ Adult and children's clothing
- ❖ Toys
- ❖ Summer sport equipment
- ❖ Fans

Please bring any summer-related "rummage"
to the Church House this week!

