

First  
Congregational  
Church of St. Louis

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



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OF CHRIST

a just world for all



**First Congregational Church  
of St. Louis**  
*United Church of Christ*

SUNDAY • MAY 9, 2021

**First Congregational Church of St. Louis**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

**Worship May 9, 2021**

**Bells Calling to Worship**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit**                                    "I Woke Up This Morning"

**Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Sing to our God a new song.

**People:** **God has done marvelous things!**

**Leader:** Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

**People:** **Break forth into joyous song and sing praises**

**Opening Music**                            "We Walk in Love"

*Words by Deanna Witkowski & Lemuel Colon*

*Music by Deanna Witkowski*

**We walk in love, united in purpose.**

**We join our hands and lift up one voice.**

**We speak the truth with strength and compassion,**

**Resounding with hope, with courage and joy.**

**We cry for peace and rights for all people.**

**We welcome friends from far and near.**

**We fight for those whose voices are silenced,**

**Resisting in faith until all are free.**

**We dream a world of justice and kindness.**

**We build a bridge, creating new paths.**

**We march with joy as all walk together.**

**Embracing each one, we boldly stand.**

**Passing the Peace**

## Song

"Celtic Alleluia"

*Tune Christopher Walker and Fintan O'Carroll*

## Prayers of the People

### *The Prayer of Our Savior*

**Our Mother, 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Anthem

"The King of Love (Psalm 23)"

*John Ness Beck, paraphrase of Psalm 23 by Henry W. Baker*

*The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.*

*Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.*

*In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.*

*And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.*

## Scripture      **John 15:9-17 (The Passion Translation)**

"I love each of you with the same love that the Father loves me. You must continually let my love nourish your hearts. If you keep my commands, you will live in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands, for I continually live nourished and empowered by his love. My purpose for telling you these things is so that the joy that I experience will fill your hearts with overflowing gladness! So this is my command: Love each other deeply, as much as I have loved you. For the greatest love of all is a love that sacrifices all. And this great love is demonstrated when a person sacrifices his life for his friends.

You show that you are my intimate friends when you obey all that I command you. I have never called you ‘servants,’ because a master doesn’t confide in his servants, and servants don’t always understand what the master is doing. But I call you my most intimate and cherished friends, for I reveal to you everything that I’ve heard from my Father. You didn’t choose me, but I’ve chosen and commissioned you to go into the world to bear fruit. And your fruit will last, because whatever you ask of my Father, for my sake, he will give it to you! So this is my parting command: Love one another deeply!”

**Piano Solo** "Anytime You Need a Friend"  
*Words and Music by Mariah Carey and Walter Afanasieff*

**Sermon** Rev. Mia White

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction** “May the Road Rise up to Meet You”  
*arr. Matthew Stewart and Ron Hall*

*“May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine on your face. May the rain fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of God’s hand.”*

**Postlude** "Scherzo" *Alan Ridout*

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