

First
Congregational
Church of St. Louis

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all



SUNDAY • AUGUST 1, 2021

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

Welcome!

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

Restrooms are located down the hall on the main floor.

All Gender Restrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary and downstairs in the Fellowship Hall (which is accessible).

Changing tables are located in the Nursery on the main floor and at the back of the sanctuary.

***An asterisk** is an invitation to rise, in body or spirit.
Bolded text is an invitation for the congregation to read or sing in unison.

For everyone's health and safety:

- Masks are required for everyone ages 5 and over while indoors.
- Please practice physical distancing.
- Ushers will not collect offerings. Instead, you may place your offerings in the baskets located in the Tower Room and Narthex.
- Children should sit with their parents in the pews. Children may get activities from the Playground and then return to the pews.
- At the conclusion of worship, attendees should exit the sanctuary promptly to avoid prolonged, close contact.
- Social hour following worship will be held without coffee or food on the Garth, weather permitting.

Worship August 1, 2021

Bells Calling to Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude "Jesus, Bread of Life" *Music by Audrey Assad
and Fernando Ortega*

*Jesus, Bread of Life, Manna from Heaven,
Broken for the world, offered up for everyone.
The feast of angels becomes food for the weary.
And hungry hearts are filled when you open up Your hand.
O Lord, come fill us with Your love, this table laid for us.
There is more than enough, O Jesus, Bread of Life.*

*Sister, take what you need, anything I own.
There is no famine here: Jesus' love will multiply.
Brother, what's mine is yours; you are not alone.
There is no shortage here: Jesus' love satisfies.
O Lord, come fill us with Your love, this table laid for us.
There is more than enough, O Jesus, Bread of Life.*

Opening Prayer & 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.**

***Passing the Peace**

***Hymn**

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

#330

**Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees. *Refrain***

***Refrain:* When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain***

**Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain***

Holy Communion

Leader: “Come and eat, come and eat,” so many times we heard those words as a child growing up. This call told us that the time had come for us to gather as a family at the table to share our highs and lows. Christians also have a table at the center of our family tradition. Meals are full of significance and order. Jesus spent much time eating and teaching at tables. Jesus broke rules that were added to the table by sharing the space with all who were excluded.

People: A meal was never simply a time to ingest food and quench thirst; at meals people display kinship and friendship. Among God’s chosen people, meals become ways of experiencing and enjoying God’s presence and provision.

Leader: Likewise in worship, as we connect with each other in community, we encounter God. It is at this meal that we can enjoy God's presence together.

In Jesus' last days the table was the place of his final instructions, including a command to continue to gather at the table in remembrance of him.

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Eternal God,

having shared in your sacred covenant-renewing meal,
let us now also share in your sacred work on earth.

As we have received sustenance for our bodies, minds, and spirits,
may we share our transformed selves with other persons
and families in our local and global communities.

Scripture

John 6:24-35 (NRSV)

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

Do not work for the food that perishes,
but for the food that endures for eternal life,
which the Son of Man will give you.

For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."

Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?"

Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you?

What work are you performing?

Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Holy Dialogue

Sarah Bereza, Hannah Rice,
Emily Stokes, Rev. Mia White

***Closing Hymn**

"As We Gather at Your Table"

#332

As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

(Cont'd on the next page)

Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

Blessing

Postlude

"March on the
Old Hundredth Psalm Tune"

Brenda Portman

Thank you to those serving today.

Greeters: Karen Safe, Mike McKee

Announcements: June Wiens

Liturgist: Robyn Wiens

Soloist: Megan Glass, Soprano

Communion Preparer: Mary Lou Mellish

Communion liturgy is from Opstal, Maria Van. *The Next Worship: Glorifying God in a Diverse World.* ©2016 InterVarsity Press

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