

First  
Congregational  
Church of St. Louis  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all



SUNDAY • AUGUST 15, 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 15, 2021*

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### **Bells Calling to Worship**

### **Welcome & Announcements**

**Prelude**                    "Introduction and Improvisation" *arr. Janet Linker*  
from *Variations on Lasst uns erfreuen*

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **\*Call to Worship**

**Leader:** We gather together as the people of God,

**People:** With hopes, dreams, and visions.

**Leader:** As the Body of Christ, we honor the gifts of all,

**People:** Guided by the Spirit we minister together –  
young and old alike. Let our worship be only  
the beginning of what is yet to come!

**\*Opening Hymn** "To You, O God, All Creatures Sing" stz. 1, 2, 5 #17

To you, O God, all creatures sing,  
and all creation, everything  
sings your praises, alleluia!  
Your burning sun with golden beam,  
your silver moon with softer gleam  
sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your wind that blows the tempest by,  
your clouds that sail across the sky  
sing your praises, alleluia!  
Your morning rises with a song,  
and lights of evening sing along,  
sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

(Continued on the next page)

Now we who are of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take our part,  
sing your praises, alleluia!  
To you we lift our pain and care,  
receive the burdens that we bear,  
singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

### **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.

### **Scripture                  Philippians 2:1-5 (NRSV)**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ,  
any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit,  
any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete:  
be of the same mind, having the same love,  
being in full accord and of one mind.  
Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,  
but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.  
Let each of you look not to your own interests,  
but to the interests of others.  
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

### **Reflection**

Rev. Mia White



## Ceremony of Conferral of Honorary Degree

**Jim Morice, Doctor of Humane Letters**

Participants:

Deborah Krause, President of Eden Theological Seminary

David Greenhaw, President Emeritus of Eden Theological Seminary

David Luckes, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees,

Eden Theological Seminary

Mia White, Pastor, First Congregational Church of St. Louis, UCC

**Solo**

"Alleluia!"

*Music by Ferdinand Hummel*

*Text from Psalm 63 & 23 by Frederick H. Martens*

*O Lord! My God! Early did I seek thee out,  
My soul for thee was thirsting Lord,  
It longed for thee in a land of drought!  
O thou didst lead me by the hand  
Who languished in a barren land  
Thy mercy, I sing with joy devout!  
Alleluia!*

*O thou, dear Lord, art my shepherd,  
Thy mercy doth my soul restore;  
Thy rod and staff they are my comfort,  
My cup of joy, behold it runneth over!  
Beside the waters still me leading,  
In pastures green thou bad'st me live,  
My soul exalts thee, my voice shall rise,  
Thy mercy praising to the sky:  
Alleluia!*

**Blessing**

**Postlude**

"Chorale Fantasia and Finale"  
from Variations on Lasst uns erfreuen

arr. Janet Linker

# First Congregational Church in the Community

Tutoring

BJC Healthcare Board

The National Park Foundation

MOBot Board

Southern Poverty Law Center

Blood donation

Epiphany Breakfast volunteer

Eden Theological Seminary Board

St. Andrews Resources for Seniors System Board

Foster parent

Supporting friends who need help

Interfaith Partnership

Court Appointed Special Advocate

Pedal the Cause

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

ACLU

Black Lives Matter vigils

Operation Food Search

American Friends Service Committee

Political action projects

Wounded Warrior Project

Yale Club of St. Louis volunteer interviewer

Habitat for Humanity volunteer

Potbangerz volunteer

St. Louis Association Committee on Ministry

Ring Lake Ranch volunteer

President of local Democratic Club

Metro Theatre Company Board

American Society for the  
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Protests

St. Louis Symphony

Friends Committee on National Legislation

And more!

*Thank you to those serving today.*

**Greeter:** Karen Safe  
**Liturgist:** Jim Hartley  
**Soloist:** Mary Brown, Soprano

**Our Ministry Team:**

**Dr. Sarah Bereza** (MM, MA, PhD), Minister of Music  
(sbereza@firstcongregational.org)

**Anne Chao**, Preschool Director  
(anne@firstcongregationalpreschool.org)

**Mehran Moslehikhah**, Maintenance

**Hannah Rice** (MDiv), Minister of Administration and Membership  
(hrice@firstcongregational.org)

**Emily Stokes** (MAPS), Minister of Children & Families  
(estokes@firstcongregational.org)

**Rev. Mia White** (MATS, MDiv), Senior Minister  
(revmia@firstcongregational.org)



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