

First
Congregational
Church of St. Louis

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all



*"Even the dogs
under the table
eat the children's crumbs."*

SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 19, 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.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

"An die Musik"

F. Schubert

Jennifer Garrison Brown, flute
*Beloved art, in how many a bleak hour,
when I am enmeshed in life's tumultuous round,
have you kindled my heart to the warmth of love,
and borne me away to a better world!*

*Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to our community of faith.

**People: With the help of the Creator
we strive to be a people of inclusion.**

Leader: We come to share open hearts, open doors,
and open minds.

**People: Experience spiritual living built on belonging,
believing, and blessing others.**

Leader: We are free to be ourselves, included, accepted, and
welcomed, and people who care for all of God's creations.

**People: We want to create welcome for all in this place,
in our homes and communities,
and throughout the world.
Let us worship together as a community of faith.**

Stewardship Testimony

Katherine Buchowski

*Opening Hymn

"Community of Christ"

#314 Stz 1, 2, 4

**Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.**

(Continued on the next page)

Community of Christ, look past the church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;
Our currency be love and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

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 of the Peace

***Congregational Song "God of Many Faces"**

Amy Cerniglia

Irish Melody, harm. Jack Schrade

God of many faces, we offer our praise,
singing your glory through all of our days.
Hear ever growing voices, once fragile, now strong,
carrying melodies in expansive new songs.

God of many genders, our world reflects you,
sunrise and sunset uniting our hues,
woven into a city with jewels of all shades,
houses of ruby and walls rowed with jade.

God of many names, we invite you to show
us the new names that reflect our true souls.
Breathe with your holy spirit to give us the Word
that will indwell dry bones, granting new life once heard.

God of many bodies, abide within ours,
shifting more each day through time and through scars.
Come sanctify our bodies, all fashioned by you,
holier everyday, still becoming more true.

Scripture Mark 7:24-30 (NRSV)

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.
He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there.
Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter
had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came
and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile,
of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon
out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first,
for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."
But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table
eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her,
"For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."
So she went home, found the child lying on the bed,
and the demon gone.

Anthem

"You Say" Lauren Daigle, Jason Ingram,
Paul Mabury, arr. Heather Sorenson

*I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough.
Every single lie that tells me I will never measure up.
Am I more than just the sum of every high and every low?
Remind me once again just who I am, because I need to know.*

*Refrain: You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing,
You say I am strong when I think I am weak,
You say I am held when I am falling short.
When I don't belong, you say I am yours.
And I believe what you say of me.*

*The only thing that matters now is everything you think of me.
In you I find my worth, in you I find my identity. Refrain*

*Taking all I have, and now I'm laying it at your feet.
You have every failure, God, you have every victory. Refrain*

Message

Anthem

"I Will Sing with the Spirit"
Text from 1 Cor. 14:15

John Rutter

*I will sing with the spirit,
and I will sing with the understanding also: alleluia.*

Blessing

Postlude

**"Fugue sur le thème du Carillon Maurice Duruflé
des Heures de la Cathédrale de Soissons, Op 12"**

NEW – Radical Inclusion Adult Formation Series

Sun. Sept. 26, 11:20 AM on Zoom Coffee Hour

Sneak Peak: "Congregationalism Comes to the West" – Bert Merrell

Sun. Oct. 3, 11:20 AM in person & on Zoom

"Congregationalism Comes to the West" – Bert Merrell

Sun. Oct. 31, 11:20 AM on Zoom Coffee Hour

"Being a Black Man in a White Church" – Damien Richardson

And more to come!

Early Music @ 1st – FCC's concert series resumes this year!

October 10, 3p 17th – C Lute Music from France & Scotland

November 7, 3p 19th – C Chamber Music for Violin, Cello & Guitar

December 12, 3p 17th – C German Music of the Season for Soprano

February 6, 3p – Music of Colonial New England for Voice and Viola da Gamba

March 13, 3p – Gaelic Song and Dance

April 24, 3p – Music for Viola d'Amore by Haydn, Stamitz & Others

Other Upcoming Events:

Today! Sept. 19, 12:15 PM – Women of Wydown Brown Bag Lunch

Sat. Oct. 2, 8AM-12PM – Food Outreach Volunteer Day

Sun. Oct. 3, 9:00 AM – Y'all Come Choir

Sat. Oct. 9 & Sun. Oct. 10, 9AM-1PM – SHED Fall Work Days



**Scan this QR code to learn about
these events and more.**

**(Open your phone's camera
and point it at the code)**

Thank you to our members serving today:

**Greeters – Bill Piper, Bert Merrell
Liturgist – David Greenhaw**

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



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