

First  
Congregational  
Church of St. Louis

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all



**SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 26, 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.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license # A-720972

## Worship September 26, 2021

### Welcome & Announcements

Prelude "Meditation" Sarah Bereza  
*Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free...*

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Creator, along life's pathways, we search continually for signs to point us in positive directions.

People: **Christ has given us a sign which points us to healing and hope: that is the sign of the Bread of Life.**

Leader: No more shall we hunger and thirst after the things which cannot sustain us.  
Now we have been fed and nourished by Christ!

People: **Open our hearts in gratitude, Creator, for all the wondrous things you have done for us. Open our Spirits to hear your words of hope for us today.**

Stewardship Testimony Jim Morice

Anthem "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit" arr. William L. Dawson  
Text and tune:  
*African-American Spiritual*

*Ev'ry time I feel the spirit,  
moving in my heart, I will pray.*

*Upon the mountain my Lord spoke,  
out of his mouth came fire and smoke;  
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,  
till I asked my Lord if all was mine.*

*Jordan river is chilly and cold;  
it chills the body but not the soul;  
There ain't but one train upon this track;  
it runs to heaven and right back.*

## 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 "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" Stz. 1 & 3

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!  
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love -  
leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best!  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest!  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus - 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;  
and it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee!

Scripture John 4:3-30 (NRSV)

He [Jesus] left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

## Anthem

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

arr. Mark Hayes

Tune from Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842

Text from Munster Gesangbuch, 1677

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and Mary's Son,  
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.  
Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer who makes the woeful heart to sing.  
Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast.  
Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Head of all creation,  
God and the blessed Mary's child.  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine. Amen.*

## Message

### \*Closing Hymn

"Sent Forth By God's Blessing"

#76

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
to work for God's realm and to answer the call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.  
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.**

## Blessing

## Postlude

"Toccata" from *Heures Dominicales*

Édith Beaulieu

**NEW - Radical Inclusion Adult Formation Series**

**TODAY! 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:**

**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**



**News & Events**

Scan these QR codes to learn  
about these events  
and to give online.  
(Open your phone's camera  
and point it at the codes)



**Give Online**

**Thank you to our members serving today:**

Greeter - Ann Kittlaus

Liturgist - Karen Safe

**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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