

First  
Congregational  
Church of St. Louis

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all



**SUNDAY • OCTOBER 17, 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.

**Childcare** for infants-preschoolers is located  
in the nursery on the main floor.

**\*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 remaining in worship should sit with their parents in the pews. Children may get activities from the Prayground 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 October 17, 2021

### Welcome & Announcements

Michele Bryan, Clerk

**Prelude** Meditation on "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

### \*Call to Worship

**Leader:** God has been acting in our lives  
and in the world around us this past week.

**People:** We have come for this hour of worship  
to make ourselves more aware of God  
and to give thanks for God's presence with us.

**Leader:** God is here even now, ready to strengthen us  
and to urge us to greater faithfulness.

**All:** Fill us with your goodness, O God.  
Draw us into the orbit of your activity in the world  
that we might fulfill the purpose for which you created us.  
Amen.

### Stewardship Testimony

Paul Brady

### Anthem

"Through All the World Below" *arr. Don McAfee*  
Text and tune from *Southern Harmony* (1835)

*Through all the world below God is seen all around;  
Search hills and valleys through, there God's found.  
The growing of the corn, the lily and the thorn,  
The pleasant and forlorn all declare, "God is there."  
In meadows dressed in green, there God's seen.*

*See springs of water rise, fountains flow, rivers run;  
The mist below the skies hides the sun;  
then down the rain doth pour, the ocean it doth roar  
And dash against the shore, all to praise in their lays,  
That God who ne'er declare God's designs.*

*The sun, to my surprise, speaks of God as it flies;  
The comets in their blaze, give God praise.  
The shining of the stars, the moon as it appears,  
God's sacred name declares.  
See them shine, all divine!  
The shades in silence prove God's above.*

## 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 "All Things Bright and Beautiful" #31, Stz 1 & 3

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.



## Scripture

Genesis 16:1-16 (NRSV)

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave-girl whose name was Hagar, and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave-girl; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave-girl, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife. He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave-girl to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.

The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her." The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude." And the angel of the Lord said to her,

"Now you have conceived and shall bear a son;  
you shall call him Ishmael,  
for the Lord has given heed to your affliction.  
He shall be a wild ass of a man,  
with his hand against everyone,  
and everyone's hand against him;  
and he shall live at odds with all his kin."

So she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?" Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

**Anthem**

"Blessed Be the Lord, My Rock"

Abbie Betinis  
text from Psalm 144

*Blessed be the Lord, my rock and my fortress,  
my stronghold, my deliverer; my shield, and One in whom I take refuge.  
We are like breath, our days are like a passing shadow.  
Bow thy heav'ns, O Lord, come down!  
Stretch forth thy hand from on high, rescue me, deliver me.  
I will sing a new song to thee, O God.*

**Sermon**

Rev. Mia White

**\*Closing Hymn**

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

#394

**In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;  
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
God's service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.**

**In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;  
For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;  
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.**

**Blessing**

**Postlude**

"Fantasia on *Jesu, meine Freude*" BWV 713

J.S. Bach

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

**Greeters - Michele Bryan, Chrissy Paterson**

**Liturgist - Michele Bryan**

## Elementary & Middle School Sunday School

Second & Fourth Sundays, 10 AM, Outdoors  
Oct. 24; Nov. 14, 28

## Radical Inclusion Adult Formation Series

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

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

**Sun. Nov. 21, 11:20 AM in person & on Zoom**

"Dismantling the White Gaze: Three Ways of Looking at Black Bodies in Marcel Camus's *Orfeu Negro* (1959)" - Julia Walker

**And more to come!**

## Other Upcoming Events:

**Sun. Oct. 17, 12 PM** - Women of Wydown Brown Bag Lunch

**Sun. Oct. 24, 11:30 AM** - Family Pumpkin Carving (outdoors)

**Fri. Nov. 5, 6:30 PM** - Outdoor Family Movie Night

**Sun. Nov. 7, 3 PM** - *Early Music @ 1st: 19th* - C Chamber Music for Violin, Cello & Guitar

**Sat. Nov. 13, 10 AM - 12 PM** - Holiday Market



**News  
& Events**

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



**Give  
Online**

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

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



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