



SUNDAY • JANUARY 16, 2022

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.
- 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 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 January 16, 2022

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

"Achat Sha'alti"
Jennifer Garrison Brown, flute

Paul Schoenfield

Opening Prayer

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God created all the races and nations of the world
and desires that we live together in peace and harmony.

People: We were made to be family.

Leader: There is strife in the human family;
injustice abounds as racism, classism, sexism, imperialism,
and other isms. We are a divided people.

**People: We have been called to let justice roll down like a mighty river.
We must work passionately to bridge the gulf between us,
repair the injustices that oppress us,
and restore the community amongst us.**

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.

Children's Moment Puppet Show

Emily Stokes & Tia

A Celebration of Praying with Martin Luther King Jr.

Music

"Roll Down, Justice"
Stephanie Ruggles, alto
Nathan Ruggles, tenor

Mark A. Miller

Reading 1: The Higher Principle of Love

A prayer recited after King's address, "The Birth of a New Age," at the 50th anniversary convention of the Alpha Phi Fraternity, Buffalo, N.Y., 1956

Pause for Silent Meditation

Lighting of the 1st Candle

Music

"There is a Balm in Gilead"
Follow along with Hymn #553

Reading 2: Help Us to Work with Renewed Vigor

This prayer was delivered on September 6, 1953, as part of King's broadcast from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga.

Pause for Silent Meditation

Lighting of the 2nd Candle

Music

"Make Me and Instrument of Your Peace" *arr. Mark Hayes*
text by Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)
music by Sabastian Temple (1928-1997)

Reading 3: I Can't Face It Alone

After receiving a telephone call from a white racist who threatened his life, his home, and his family, King said this prayer in the kitchen of his residence at 309 South Jackson Street in Montgomery, Ala., on January 28, 1956.

Pause for Silent Meditation

Lighting of the 3rd Candle

Music

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
Follow along with Hymn #472

Responsive Blessing

Leader: Dr. King had a dream. The ideals of justice and freedom and the belief that all are created equal in the eyes of God are noble principles. But they are meaningless unless we embrace these ideals.

People: I will not keep silent. I will struggle with myself.
I will not rest until the dream of justice and freedom becomes my personal dream. I must realize that I am not an innocent bystander. I can help bring about the dream by my action, or delay it by inaction.

Leader: Dr. King's dream of a day when people from all races and nations, even the offspring of slaves and former slave owners, can sit at a table as brothers and sisters and find ways of transforming their differences into the common good.
That was Dr. King's. What is your dream?

People: My dream is that one day soon I will find a way to stop just celebrating the dream and start living it. It must become a part of my daily life or nothing much will change.

Leader: The dream is not about an ideal world. It is about the real world. Dr. King's poetic refrain, "I Have a Dream," is a call for us to remember the real world where injustice rules.

People: When I am in the shelter of my home, I must remember the homeless. When I eat, I must remember the hungry. When I feel secure, I must remember the insecure. When I see injustice, I must remember that it will not stop unless I stop it.

Leader: I have a dream!

People: I also have a dream. I have a dream that the Holy Spirit will arouse in me that very flame of righteousness that caused Dr. King to become a living sacrifice for the freedom and liberation of all of God's children. Then I will be able to resist racial injustice everywhere I see it, even within myself.

Postlude "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (Hymnal #593)

*Blessing Adapted from the United Presbyterian Church Prayer on Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Call to Worship from the *Presbyterian Peacemaking Program*

*MLK Reading from <http://www.mercymidatlantic.org/PrayerServiceMLK.pdf>

Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday January 30, 10:00 AM

All members are requested at our Annual Meeting on January 30. The meeting will begin after an abbreviated service led by Reverend Mia White. The worship service, but not the annual meeting, will be livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube for those watching from home.

The service and meeting will be held in person, per our bylaws, as well as online in the west parking lot via a private YouTube link. Members attending online from their cars in the parking lot will receive the YouTube link by email after they RSVP to the church office, or upon arrival on the 30th. Members attending online will have their presence recorded and votes registered.

The Congregation will vote on four matters: 1) the minutes from last year's annual meeting; 2) proposed revision of the church's articles of incorporation; 3) proposed 2022 budget; and 4) proposed slate of council and committee members for 2022.

To facilitate Covid protocols and logistics planning we ask and need everyone to RSVP to the church office indicating whether or not you will attend.

Meet our new friends!



Tia

Tia is a curious little girl who loves superheroes and making new friends. She lives with her mom, dad, and older brother, Jordan. Tia is excited to come to church for the first time and has lots of questions for us!



Jada

Jada Bell (pronouns She/Her) is a proud Saint Louisan, born and raised. She is passionate about the significance of community building and advocating for the voiceless. In her free time, she loves to read, play video games, and cater to her three cats' every whim.

Zoom Coffee Hour
Sundays at 11:20 AM

Join us each Sunday on Zoom for a virtual coffee hour. We catch up with each other and have lively discussions on interesting topics.

Meeting ID: 314 721 5060

Passcode: coffee

Radical Inclusion Adult Formation Series

"Discerning Our White Culture as a Church Moving into the Future

Intro - January 23 during Zoom Coffee Hour (11:20)

Book Study - Tuesday in February at 6:30 PM

Throughout its history FCC has been almost entirely a congregation made up of people who would probably identify themselves racially as white. Still, we cannot easily identify what “being white” looks like in relationships, including with people who identify themselves as people of color. Now we have a senior pastor who is African-American. How is this relationship and the congregation going to grow in its sense of community as well as mission and ministry into the future? A book by Robin DiAngelo entitled *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* can give us a foundation for a response.

Starting with an introduction and overview during Virtual Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 23, we'll then meet for four Tuesdays beginning February 1 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. on Zoom to work our way through the book. The book can be purchased in paperback or for a Kindle.

Any questions should be directed to Jim Hartley, the facilitator for the series (revjharts@gmail.com).

Early Music @ 1st:

FCC's concert series in partnership with Early Music Missouri

**Sun. Feb. 6, 3 PM - Music of Colonial New England
for Voice and Viola da Gamba**

Sun. March 13, 3 PM - Gaelic Song and Dance

Sun. April 24, 3 PM - Music for Viola d'Amore by Haydn, Stamitz & Others



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

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

Our Ministry Team:

Jada Bell, Puppeteer

Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance

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

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

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

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



**News
& Events**



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