

First  
Congregational  
Church of St. Louis

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

Sixth Sunday  
of *Easter*

SUNDAY • MAY 22, 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.

**Children** are invited to remain in worship. There are activities at the Playground at the front of the sanctuary.

**The Coffee Bar** is available at the back of the sanctuary from 9:30-11:30.

**\*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.

**Today's Liturgy**

Blessing - by Thom M. Shuman, [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)

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Welcome & Announcements

Bill Piper, *Member at Large*

Prelude

"Be Now My Vision"

Paul Manz

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Worship is a way for us to show our love to God.

People: It's a way for us to give thanksgiving  
for all of the blessings that have been given to us.

Leader: We worship because it is a way of saying, "I love You."

People: We worship because it is a way of saying, "Thank You."  
We worship because it is a way of saying, "You are worthy."

**\*Hymn**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#28

DIX

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the splendor of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

[Refrain] God of all, to you we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light, [Refrain]

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]

For the good that love inspires,  
for a world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires,  
and for every heart renewed, [Refrain]

## Prayers of Petition & Thanksgiving

### *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.

### Anthem

### "All Good Gifts"

David Schwoebel

*All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all God's love.*

*We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:  
God sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.*

*All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank he Lord, O thank the Lord for all God's love.*

*God only is the Maker of all things near and far,  
God paints the wayside flower, God lights the evening star;  
The wind and waves obey God, by God the birds are fed;  
Much more to us God's children, God gives our daily bread.*

*All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank he Lord, O thank the Lord for all God's love.*

*We thank Thee our Creator for all things bright and good,  
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;  
Accept the gifts we offer for all Thy love imparts,  
And what Thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.*

*All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank he Lord, O thank the Lord for all God's love.*

### \*Passing of the Peace



## Scripture

Galatians 3:23-28

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one.

## Anthem

"How Can I Keep from Singing?      Russell Schulz-Widmar

*My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth's lamentation  
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear the music ringing;  
it finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?*

*What though my joys and comforts die?  
My Savior Jesus liveth!  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth.  
Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear the music ringing;  
it finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to my hope I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heav'n and earth  
how can I keep from singing?  
Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear the music ringing;  
it finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his.  
How can I keep from singing?  
Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear the music ringing;  
it finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?*

**Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

*[Refrain]* **Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.**

**On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.**

*[Refrain]*

**As we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.**

*[Refrain]*

**Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.**

*[Refrain]*

**\*Responsive Blessing**

**Leader: Our God, who is gracious, sends us out to be a blessing.**

**People: With our hearts, we will sing God's praises;  
with our hands, we will serve God's people.**

**Leader: Jesus, who is our Brother, sends us to be with others.**

**People: We will comfort all whose hearts are troubled;  
we will go to help all who cry out to us.**

**Leader: The Holy Spirit, who is our Advocate, sends us into a broken world.**

**People: We will work for justice for all who are oppressed;  
we will teach songs of hope to all who despair. Amen.**



# Announcements -

## **Zoom Coffee Hour**

Every Sunday, 11:20 AM

Join us each Sunday on Zoom for a virtual coffee hour.

Meeting ID: 3147215060 (church #)

Passcode: coffee

## **Confirmation Sunday**

Sunday June 5, 10:00 AM

Join us for worship on Pentecost Sunday as we welcome Eva Brown into our church membership. Eva has completed nine months of classes to prepare her to make this decision. We will have a shortened service including her confirmation followed by a reception in the parlor. If you would like to show your support to Eva, we invite you to bring a small gift of love to share with her.

**Thank you to those serving this morning.**

**Guest Organist:** Ruth Tweeten

**Choir Director:** Stephanie Ruggles

**Announcements:** Bill Piper

**Scripture:** Susan Piper

**Ushers:** Todd & Josie Kiefer, Katherine Buchowski

**Livestream:** Damien Richardson

## **Women of Wydown Lunch**

Sunday May 22, 11:30 AM

All women are invited to Carol Klein's house at 11:30 AM today. Bring your own lunch!

## **Word & Food Service**

Sunday May 29, 10:00 AM

Join us Sunday May 29th for worship on the Garth - weather permitting. We will worship with scripture and potluck table fellowship. If you are able, please bring a breakfast/brunch dish to share. To aid in our planning, please let us know what you will be bringing. We are using the holiday weekend as an opportunity to experience worship in an alternative fashion!

## **Thank you for a successful Trivia Night!**

Trivia Night was a tremendous success!

- We had Fellowship Hall filled with laughter and fun from more than 100 members and guests.
- 39 families also helped by providing auction items, sponsorships, and/or volunteering.
- And best of all we smashed our goal of \$20,000 and raised a grand total of \$30,000!

And congratulations to the FCC Young Professionals group - Our winning table!

The Membership & Fellowship Committee thanks you... the Council thanks you... and the church as a whole is grateful for your continued support and engagement!



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**Our Ministry Team:**

**Jada Bell, Puppeteer**

**Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance**

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

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

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



**News  
& Events**



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