

First
Congregational
Church of St. Louis
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY

JUNE 19, 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.

This morning's liturgy is from
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

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Worship June 19, 2022

Welcome & Announcements

Valerie Jackson, *Chair, W&E*

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader: God, who created the fields of Eden,
takes delight in all things, including us!

People: God of glory, God of grace,
your name is exalted in all the earth!

Leader: Christ, who walked the streets of our world,
gives hope to all people, including us!

People: God of glory, God of grace,
your love surrounds our every moment.

*Hymn

"We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness"

#179

PASSION CHORALE

We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness and for your healing touch;
too long have we felt helpless; our burdens seemed too much.
Forgetting all pretenses we make our pleadings heard,
in hope and expectation await your gracious Word.

We long to have companions who travel by our side,
strong friends to call and answer with whom we are allied;
As we lift up each other when struggles lay us low,
community develops; our faith and caring grow.

We need your living presence, O Christ of Galilee,
a presence that revives us and sets our spirits free.
No longer are we fearful, your love pervades each place.
Empower us with courage to claim your healing grace.

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

"Alleluia"

Ferdinand Hummel

Mary Brown, Soprano

*Passing of the Peace

Children's Time

Emily Stokes

Scripture

Mark 6: 14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus's name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests, and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Anthem "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" *arr. Mark Hayes*
Words by St. Francis of Assisi, Music by Sebastian Temple
Mary Brown, Soprano

Scripture Reflection Rev. Mia White

***Hymn** "For the Healing of the Nations" #576
WESTMINSTER ABBEY

For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

***Blessing**

Leader: Let us go now, as children of God, who are mindful of all people.

People: We will go to speak as simply as little children,
to share songs of joy we learned as infants.

Leader: Let us go now, as siblings of Jesus, to help the poor.

People: We will go to stand at the intersection of oppression and despair,
to cry out for all those whose hopes have been silenced.

Leader: Let us go now, as heirs of the peace of the Spirit.

People: We will go to share delight with everyone we meet,
to offer grace to those who have suffered most. Amen.

Postlude

What is JUNETEENTH?

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared that all enslaved people in rebellious states were to be set free. This is known as the Emancipation Proclamation.

Despite the proclamation, for two years slavery was still rampant in the state of Texas.

In the spring of 1865, General Gordon Granger and Federal troops arrived at Galveston, Texas, and he announced that all slaves were free.

The following year, freed people in Texas organized and celebrated "Jubilee Day" on June 19 to celebrate their freedom. The day has since come to be known as Juneteenth - a combination of "June" and "Nineteenth". The tradition of celebrating Juneteenth has spread all across the United States.

On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed a bill into law making Juneteenth a national holiday.

**As we remember our past,
let us also protect our future.**



Announcements -

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed this week on Monday and Tuesday for the staff team regular day off and the Juneteenth holiday.

Emily's Sabbatical & Children's Moments

Emily Stokes will be on sabbatical from June 27-August 12. During that time we are asking church members to step up to the plate and volunteer to engage with our children by providing the Sunday morning children's moment. A children's moment should be 3-5 minutes in length and discuss a topic relevant to your faith. This is a fun way to connect with our younger generation and spend some quality time interacting with and exploring our faith. Talk to the staff team to learn more and sign up!

Zoom Coffee Hour - On Hiatus

Our Zoom Coffee Hour is on hiatus for the summer. We will re-gather online on September 4!

Thank you to those serving this morning.

Guest Organist: Ruth Tweeten

Soloist: Mary Brown

Announcements & Scripture: Valerie Jackson

Summer Pickup Choir

June 26 & August 14

All are welcome to jump in and sing with the choir this summer! Stephanie Ruggles will lead two pickup choirs, on June 26 and August 14. Rehearsal will be at 9:00 AM on those Sunday mornings to learn two anthems together. If you'd like to see the pieces ahead of time Stephanie can send them to you. Talk to Stephanie to learn more - stephaniedruggles@gmail.com.

St. Louis PrideFest

June 25-26

The St. Louis PrideFest is back this summer! Save the date and plan to visit the Gateway ONA booth and/or walk in the parade on Sunday June 26 with other Open & Affirming congregations in our area.



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Our Ministry Team:

Jada Bell, Puppeteer

Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance

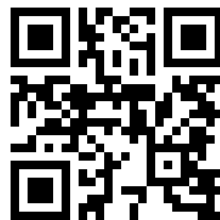
Emily Stokes (MAPS), Minister of Children & Families
(estokes@firstcongregational.org)

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

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



**News
& Events**



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