
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Alleluia



Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024 • 10:00 AM

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Adopted by the Council - 2020

The Guiding Principles of First Congregational Church of St. Louis describe the values that guide our church and its members throughout our faith journey. We will...

Practice Extravagant Welcome

- Invite and honor the contributions of every member, quirks and all.
- Be grateful for the gifts and time that each of us dedicate to FCC.

Demonstrate Faithful Leadership

- Value people and our faith community over money and material things.
- Share concerns with the appropriate person and keep discussions and comments of others confidential.
- Celebrate successes, own mistakes, and fail faithfully together and in community.

Engage in Inclusive Decision-Making

- Be thoughtful, respectful, and transparent in our decision making.
- Value building consensus and move forward faithfully once a decision is reached.
- Listen to one another and debate with respect; honor the contributions of every member.

Overall, we will be guided by FCC's mission to Know God's Word, Do God's Work, and Live God's Love.



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

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 by the restroom at the back of the sanctuary.

Large print hymn sheets are available at each entrance to the sanctuary.

Offering Boxes are located at each Sanctuary entrance.

Pew Pads are in each pew at the center aisle for you to share your contact information if you wish.

Children are always welcome in worship, either in the pews or at the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. Beginning in April, we will have Sunday school each week for ages 5-5th grade after the Children's Moment.

***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.

Easter Sunday Worship

March 31, 2024



Prelude

"Alla Hornpipe"

G.F. Händel

Welcome & Announcements

Valerie Jackson
Chair, Worship & Education

Introit

"Alleluia"

Randall Thompson

*** Call to the People**

Leader: Yesterday we thought death had won.
Yesterday we thought all was lost.
Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

People: But not today.

Today we know that love has won.
Today we know that hope is real.
Today we know that Christ is here.

Leader: We have a reason to hope.

People: We have a reason to sing!

Leader: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia!

Leader: Christ is risen today.

People: Christ is risen this day. Alleluia!

*** Hymn**

#233 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

New Century Hymnal

Tune: EASTER HYMN

Prayers for the Community

The Lord's Prayer

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*Children's Moment**

Joyce Haynes McCowan

Scripture

John 20:1-18

Ward Klein

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Scripture Reflection

Rev. Mia White

Communion

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit; Source of Life,
Living Word, and Bond of Love: We praise you for Jesus Christ,
who reminds us that even in fear-filled days, cloaked with the powers
of death, your eternal love arises, and never leaves us.
For we rejoice with all your people and with the angels,
because life is stronger than death!
As we proclaim the glory of your name:

**People: Holy is Jesus, God Incarnate, the Risen Christ,
whose mercy gathers us together in community,
whose grace meets us in our brokenness,
and whose loving faithfulness gives us renewed hope.**

The Story of the Meal

Leader: In this meal, we remember Jesus ...
... In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

**People: We remember Christ's life of love, and friendship, and teaching.
We remember Christ's dying, and rising to life again.**

Prayer to the Spirit

Distribution of the Elements

The ushers will bring the elements to the pews. The wine is red and the juice is white.
Please signal to an usher if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer.

Post-Communion Prayer

Leader: Let us pray: O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life.
Fed by your love, and strengthened by your life; we humbly accept
your call to go into this world to live with hope, and to share your joy.

**People: You commission us to feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
and love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Anthem

"Hallelujah" from "Messiah"

G. F. Händel

All are welcome to sing along with the choir from the pews!

Poetry Prayer

"Easter" by Rev. Sarah Speed, *adapted*

Hannah Rice

I cannot stay away on Easter Morning.
Like Mary,
I would run if I could.
Stop the car,
pump my arms,
take the church steps two at a time,
all to know—
Did it happen?
Did it *really* happen?
Is evil no match for love?
I'd slide down the center aisle.
I'd grab the mic to ask
the angels,
the heavens,
the children,
Were the stories true?

And in response, the choir would sing, "*Alleluia.*"
The children would flower the cross.
The preacher would tell me the stone was rolled away.
The people would pass the peace,
and welcome strangers,
and make room in the pews.
And with faith over doubt,
I would hope.

For I imagine that all of that ordinary holiness
would be enough for Mary,
and it would be enough for me.

Choral Blessing

"Halle-Halle-Halle"

Marty Haugen

Thank you to those serving this morning:

Ushers/Communion Servers: Chrissy Paterson, Suzy Besnia,
Vic Richey, Bob O'Neil, Mary Lou Mellish, Ward Klein

Announcements: Valerie Jackson

Scripture: Ward Klein

Nursery: Vicky Stringer

This morning's liturgy is from Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Prayers for Community: <https://worshipofferings.blogspot.com>

Communion: Written by Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey Guillaume, Copyright 2021 Justice and Local Church Ministries,
Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ

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Easter Office Closure

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

FCC Polling Location - Tuesday April 2

Please be aware that our church is a polling location for Tuesday's election, so we are likely to have lots of traffic in and out of the parking lot.

Pastor Mia on Vacation - April 7-27

Pastor Mia will be on vacation from April 7-27. Rev. Marty Black will preach and lead communion on April 7, and Valerie Jackson will preach April 14 and 21.

SHED Day of Service - Saturday April 27, 9:00 AM

Our Mission & Outreach Ministry Team invites volunteers to join SHED for a day of service on April 27. We will work alongside Notre Dame Alumni and University City High School students to replace raised garden beds at Unleashing Potential at Caroline Mission - Early Childhood Education Center. All we need to bring is a good attitude and some work clothes! Contact the church office to sign up.

FCC Annual Fundraiser - Saturday May 18

Save the date for the annual FCC fundraiser. Our Mission and Outreach Ministry Team is planning this year's event, which will be a Night at the Improv Comedy Cabaret! You won't want to miss what is sure to be an entertaining evening in support of our church. Stay tuned for more details.

The Red Gate Gallery Call for Art

The Red Gate is accepting submissions for the next show - *The Art of Music* - which explores intersections between music and art. You can find information about the show on facebook and instagram - @theredgategallery. To apply, email no more than 3 images with title, dimensions, date, and material information, as well as a brief explanation about how your work/idea relates to the Art of Music theme, by May 1 to: theredgate@firstcongregational.org. Put ART OF MUSIC (using all caps) in your subject line. *The Art of Music* will be on display May 18-August 18.



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Our Ministry Team

Bert Merrell, Sunday Sexton

LaBar Verner, Custodian

Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance

Tim Clark

Minister of Music
(tclark@firstcongregational.org)

Joyce Haynes McCowan (MDiv)

Minister of Faith Formation
(jhaynesmccowan@firstcongregational.org)

Hannah Rice (MDiv)

Minister of Administration and Membership
(hrice@firstcongregational.org)

Rev. Mia White (MDiv, MATS, CSD)

Senior Minister
(revmia@firstcongregational.org)



Calendar



FCC News



**Online
Giving**



**Worship
Volunteers**

314.721.5060 | 6501 Wydown Blvd. St. Louis MO 63105
office@firstcongregational.org | www.firstcongregational.org
facebook: FirstCongregationalUCC
Youtube: @fccstl | Instagram: @fccstl