

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025 • 10:00 AM



an Open & Affirming congregation

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.**



WELCOME

to First Congregational Church of St. Louis!

*an Open & Affirming congregation
of the United Church of Christ*

If you are visiting with us, we invite you to share your contact information on a Connect Card, found in each pew. You may give your card to an usher or place it in an offering box at either entrance to the sanctuary. You may also scan the QR code on the card to access the digital version.

Restrooms on the main level are located at the back of the sanctuary and down the hall on the right side.

Changing tables are located in the Nursery, two of the main floor restrooms, and by the restroom at the back of the sanctuary.

Offering Boxes are located at each sanctuary entrance.

Children are always welcome in worship, either in the pews or at the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. Except for the first Sunday of the month (Communion) we have Sunday school for elementary-aged children downstairs in the Purple Room during worship.

***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.

Sunday April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday



Prelude

"Fanfare: St. Theodulph"

James Southbridge

Announcements

Karen Safe

Prayer of Illumination

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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.**

***Call to the People**

Leader: Cheers fill the air –

People: The sound of hope and victory.

Leader: For the time being, the people wear glad hearts,

People: Their King has come into his own.

Leader: So we come with hope this day,

People: To worship God, who sends Jesus into our midst.

1-5. All glo-ry, laud, and hon - or To you, O Christ we sing,

1-5. To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho-san-nas ring.

1. O Prom-ised One of Is-ra-el, of Da-vid's roy-al line,
 2. The com-pa-ny of an-gels Are prais-ing you on high;
 3. The peo-ple of the He-brews With palms be-fore you went;
 4. To you be-fore your pas-sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 5. As you re-ceived their prais-es, re-ceive our prayers to-day,

1. the one called "God's be-lov-ed," of flesh and yet di-vine.
 2. And mor-tals, joined with all things Cre-a-ted, make re-ply.
 3. Our praise and prayers and an-thems Be-fore you we pre-sent.
 4. To you, now high ex-alt-ed, Our mel-o-dy we raise.
 5. Whose jus-tice and whose mer-cy and sov-ereign-ty hold sway.

***Passing of the Peace**

Palm Sunday Pageant

*Adapted from "Palm Sunday's Bad Boy"
by Kath Doerr*

Participants: Maya Afful, Carlos Carter, Cheyanne Carter, Avari Edwards,
Josie Kiefer, Theo Kiefer, Shamdon Latham, Adelaide Safe,
Connor Safe, Harper Safe, Cora Solomon, Owen Solomon,
Eve Wiens, June Wiens

Song

"Cloaks and Branches"

Richard Cootes

[Refrain] Here comes Jesus riding into town,
Cloaks and branches, throw them to the ground.
Praise and glory! Everybody sing!
Sing Hosanna! Hosanna to the King!

Blest is he who comes our way.
He brings a new and brighter day.
The poor are saved, the blind can see,
The captive souls are dancing free. *[Refrain]*

King of Heaven, King on Earth,
Listen to his saving word.
Peace and justice walk with him.
Let's raise the gates and let him in. *[Refrain]*

Our lives will never be the same,
Praise and bless his holy name.
And if we cannot sing it out,
The rocks themselves will start to shout. *[Refrain]*

Blessing

Leader: Passing from joy into sorrow and on to elation,

People: We come to Christ this holy week.

Leader: Today is only a part of the story.

**People: Jesus' triumph leads to his death, his death to his resurrection.
May the journey of this week lead us into the fullness
of Christ's love. Amen.**

Anthem

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” arr. Richard W. Gieseke

*Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue your road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Your triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The angel armies in the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strife is night;
Behold the ones you come to save
From senseless life and endless grave.*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die,
Bow your meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O Christ, your power and reign!*

Thank you to those serving this morning:

Ushers: Mary Lou Mellish, Karen Safe,
Michele Bryan, Chrissy Paterson

Announcements: Karen Safe

Coffee Hour Hosts: Mark Barlow, Mary Lou Mellish

Women of Wydown Lunch - Today after Worship

All women are invited to join the Women of Wydown for lunch today after worship. Leigh Greenhaw is hosting the lunch at her home (625 South Skinker Blvd. Unit 1501, 63105). Bring your own lunch, and beverages and dessert will be provided.

WOW is a monthly gathering of women for fellowship and connection. Gatherings are after worship (about 11:30 AM), with a church member graciously hosting in their home or other venue of their choice.

What's happening at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Holy Week Continues ...

Good Friday - April 18, 7:00 PM

Join us for "The Way of the Cross: A Journey of Justice," a reflective service that weaves the ancient story of Jesus' final hours with the ongoing struggles for justice in our world today. Through scripture, music, prayer, and powerful reflections, we will walk with Jesus and stand in solidarity with those who suffer.

Easter Sunday - April 20, 10:00 AM

Celebrate the resurrection with joyful worship that includes music, scripture, prayer, and reflection. After worship stay for Coffee Hour and an Easter Egg Hunt! Bring your own basket or we will provide bags.

Holy Week Office Hours

The church office will close at 2:00 PM on Good Friday, April 18, and will be closed Monday and Tuesday, April 21 and 22, for the regular staff team day off and the Easter holiday.

FCC Annual Fundraiser - Saturday May 3, 6 PM

This year's annual fundraiser is sure to be a blast - So please join us for *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*, hosted by our very own James Mellish! The evening will also include silent and live auctions with some great items to bid on. \$35/person, or save \$20 and purchase a table of 8 for \$260.

We are still accepting auction donations, so please contact the church office if you have something to donate.

Star Wars Concert - Sunday May 4, 1:30 PM

In celebration of May the 4th - Star Wars Day - Tim Clark will conduct an orchestra of 50 musicians performing music from "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" and "STAR WARS." The concert will begin at 1:30 PM and last about 45 minutes. The concert is free and open to the public, with a freewill offering to help fund future concerts. This celebration is in conjunction with the opening reception of The Red Gate's "Young Hearts, Run Free" exhibit the same day from 11:30-1:30.

This Week at FCC

Sunday - April 13

10 AM - Worship Service
After worship - Coffee Hour
11:15 AM - Staff Team Meeting
11:30 AM - Women of Wydown
7:30 PM - AA Meeting

Monday - April 14 Church Office Closed

7 PM - APO Rehearsal

Tuesday - April 15

10 AM - Sacred Studies
7 PM - CHARIS Rehearsal
7 PM - Memb. & Fellow. Meeting

Wednesday - April 16

8 AM - Wydown Men's Club
4 PM - Racial Justice Group
Zoom Session
7 PM - Council Meeting

Thursday - April 17

7 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday - April 18 Church office closes at 2 PM

7 PM - Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday - April 20

10 AM - Worship Service
After worship - Coffee Hour
and Easter Egg Hunt
7:30 PM - AA Meeting

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

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Hannah Rice (*MDiv*)

Minister of Administration and Membership

(hrice@firstcongregational.org)

Rev. Mia White (*MDiv, MATS, CSD*)

Senior Minister

(revmia@firstcongregational.org)



**Online
Giving**



FCC News



Website



Calendar



**Worship
Volunteers**

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