



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT SEVEN  
APRIL 20, 2025  
EASTER SUNDAY

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

\*EASTER GREETING

Rev. Becky David

Leader: Christ is Risen!

**People: Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

\*LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us pray,

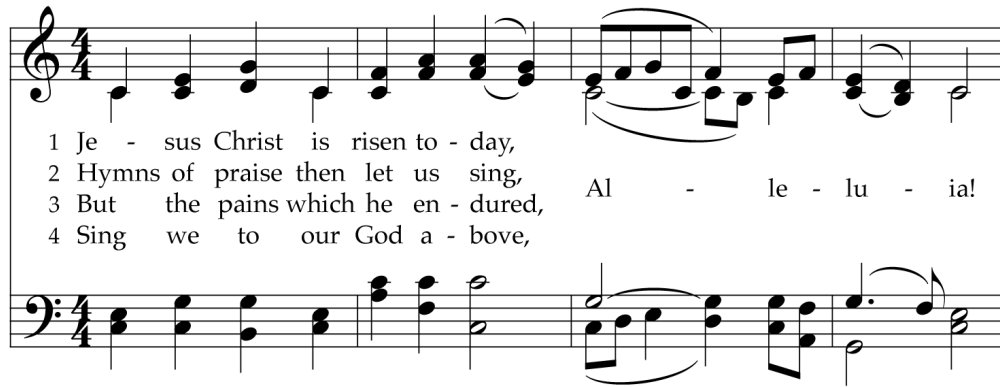
Eternal God, giver of light and life, bless this candle, that by its radiance and warmth we may respond to your love and grace, and be set free from all that separates us from you and from each other; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen.

Christ our Light!


**People: Thanks be to God!**

\*OPENING HYMN  
"Jesus Christ is risen today"

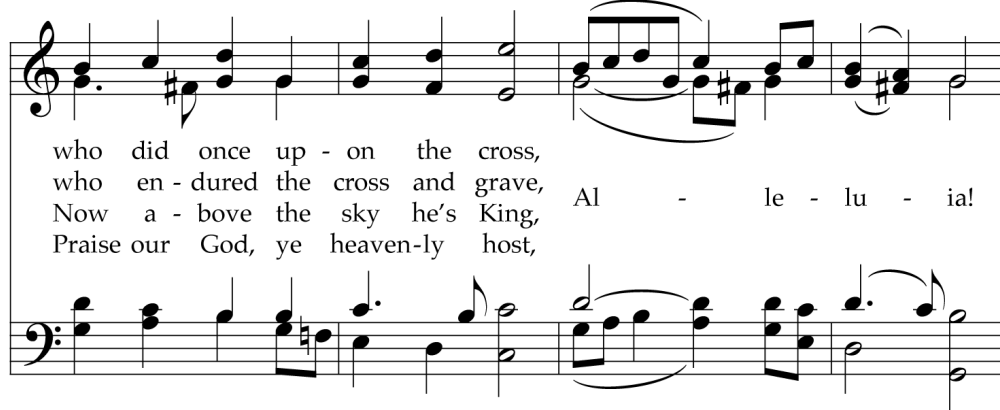
*Easter Hymn*  
Lyra Davidica, 1708



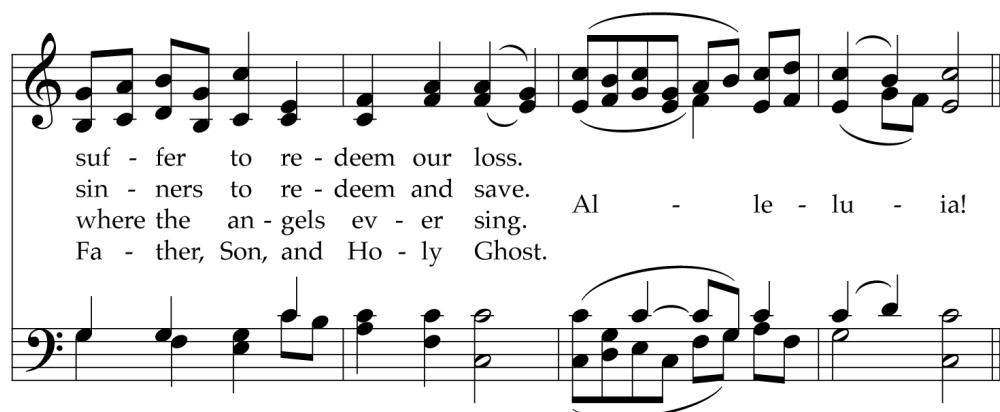
1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing,  
3 But the pains which he en - dured,  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um-phant ho - ly day,  
un - to Christ, our heaven-ly King,  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured. Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as God's love.



who did once up - on the cross,  
who en - dured the cross and grave,  
Now a - bove the sky he's King,  
Praise our God, ye heaven-ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss.  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing.  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Leader: Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us

**People: may your dawn beckon.**

Leader: When fear paralyses us

**People: may your touch release us.**

Leader: When grief torments us

**People: may your peace enfold us.**

Leader: When memories haunt us

**People: may your presence heal us.**

Leader: When justice fails us

**People: may your anger ignite us.**

Leader: When apathy stagnates us

**People: may your challenge renew us.**

Leader: When courage leaves us

**People: may your spirit inspire us.**

Leader: When despair grips us

**People: may your hope restore us.**

Leader: And when death threatens us

**People: may your resurrection light lead us. Amen.**

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 10:34-43

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the tenth chapter.

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People Thanks be to God.**

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter.

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' 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 hold on to 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.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

Sebastian Kulwicki

"I come to the garden alone"

EASTER REFLECTION

"A Love that Transforms"

Rev. Samuelson

*A period of silence follows.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. David

Leader: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

**All: Our 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,**

**for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## THE OFFERTORY

*To give online, please scan this QR code, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:*



### MISSION INVITATION

Melissa Kulwicki

Cash and designated checks go to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, which joins our hearts with God's by providing decisive aid when disaster strikes, and by helping refugees rebuild their lives. Gifts strengthen struggling communities with basics like education, health care, tools, seeds and wells. Thank you for your generosity.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. David

Leader: Let us pray,

We praise you O God, and give you thanks that you have given us such joy, such grace, and such hope, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let our lives be proof of that good news. Let all our words and actions, our love and service bear witness to your resurrection power.

**People: Amen.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. David and Rev. Samuelson

\*CLOSING HYMN

"I danced in the morning"

*American Shaker melody, 1963*

Sydney Carter, 1963



1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I  
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but  
 3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The  
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's  
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. ‡

(Em)

(A)

Gm

C



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I  
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They  
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They  
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D)

(Bm)

(F#m)

(Bm)

F

Dm

Am

Dm



came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At  
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They  
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and  
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but  
 live in you if you'll live in me, ¶

(Em)

(A7)

(G)

(D)

Gm

C7

Bb

F



Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
 came with me and the dance went on.  
 left me there on a cross to die.  
 I am the dance and I still go on.  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain

(F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)  
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm

Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)  
Gm C F Dm F C7 F

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)  
Gm C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Samuelson

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## LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *co-celebrant and preacher*

The Rev. Becky David, *co-celebrant and liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *liturgist*

Sebastian Kulwicki, *soloist*

*The Congregation, Council, and Staff wish you a Blessed Easter!*

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Interim Senior Minister:** Rev. Becky David, M.Div.  
**Designated Minister:** Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.  
**Minister of Music:** Joshua Stafford, M.M.  
**Interim Director of Faith Formation:** Leslie Fulford  
**Administrative Manager:** Amy Wagner  
**Communications Manager:** Melissa Kulwicki  
**Office Assistant:** Pat Patterson  
**Business Administrator:** Annette McCormick  
**Maintenance:** Mike Sharrock  
**Custodians:** Alexis Wayne, Bill McCabe, Bob O'Brien  
**Handbell Director:** Jennifer Fry  
**Wedding Coordinators:** Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Denise Vogt  
**Nursery Staff:** Miranda Brooks, Shelly Gies, Celecia Smith  
**Commissioned Minister for Social Justice:** Tom Brownfield  
**Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction:** Jacquelyn Dean  
**Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Program Coordinator:** Gary Glover  
**Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Training Coordinator:** Wendy Kennedy  
**Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator:** Susie Loik  
**Senior Deacon:** Martha Worth  
**Deacons:** Allen Baker, Heather Jones, Brian Kemp, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Fran Panek, Gary Seigerst, Thomason Smith

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Chairperson:** Frank Cook  
**Trustees:** Matthew Bendick, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Melody Leidheiser, Janet Miller, Sarah Reed, Judy Smith, (Secretary), Hugh Schultz

### CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

**Moderator:** Sarah Reed  
**Moderator-elect:**  
**Treasurer:** Ramona Moenter  
**Treasurer-elect:**  
**Secretary:** Amanda Butler  
**Secretary-elect:**  
**Nominating Chair:** Gregory Halbe

### COMMISSIONERS

**Church Stewardship and Church Growth:** Stephen Sterrett  
**Church Stewardship and Church Growth-elect:** Kathy Reed  
**Church Vitality:** Pat Patterson  
**Church Vitality-elect:** Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen  
**Communications and Technology Commission:** Mike Kennedy  
**Communications and Technology Commission-elect:**  
**Faith Formation Commission:** Cami Curren  
**Faith Formation Commission-elect:** Mariner Taft  
**House & Grounds:** Eric Klintworth  
**House & Grounds-elect:**  
**Justice & Mercy:** James Lowe  
**Justice & Mercy-elect:** Janice Taft  
**Music, Arts & Heritage:** Jim Griffin  
**Music, Arts & Heritage-elect:** Cheryl Hoskinson  
**Member-at-Large:** Martha Wilson  
**Personnel:** Sandra Mathias  
**Personnel-elect:**  
**Youth Member-at-Large:** Sebastian Kulwicki

## FIRST CHURCH IS A FAITH COMMUNITY

- † Called together by God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
- † Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
- † Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.

We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and holy scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

## OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation  
Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



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