



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT NINE
MAY 4, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"How Firm a Foundation"

arr. Anna Laura Page, 2003

WELCOME

Rev. Becky

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Becky

*SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the Day, Irr.

"This is the day" (*verse 1 only*)

Les Garrett, 1967

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

God has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be
rose a - gain; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be
Spir - it came; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joice and be
glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joice and be
glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joice and be

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

Leader: Living God, you meet us in unexpected places and surprise us with the abundance of your love.

People: **Feed us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may follow you this day and always; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

GATHERING SONG
“Great are you, Lord”

Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith, 1982, alt.
Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith, 1982, alt.

Great are you, Lord: you are ho-ly and just; by your pow-er we trust in your
love. Great are you, Lord: you are faith-ful and true; by your
mer-cy you prove you are love. Great are you, Lord, and
wor-thy of glo-ry! Great are you, Lord, and wor-thy of praise.
Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:
great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

STATEMENT OF FAITH by Daniel Sire

Rev. Joanna

(These statements of faith are offered to show a variety of ways we can express our faith in God, Jesus, and Spirit. You never have to recite words you do not believe, so please participate only with words that resonate with you.)

I believe in God, the source of all life, wholeness, and love.

I believe that God is revealed in Jesus Christ.

I believe that in his life, Jesus reveals God in grace, mercy, forgiveness, and justice.

I believe that in his death, Jesus reveals God's determined presence in the world even in the face of hatred, violence, and pain.

I believe that in his resurrection, Jesus reveals God calling us to abundant life both now and forever; life beyond our fearful and fragile imaginations.

I believe that God lives among us, within us, and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I believe that God moves us to be together in communities of faith, hope, and love.

I believe these things not out of certainty but out of faith; as one who trusts in the reality of God revealed in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

During the sermon time, the young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories"

with Melissa Kulwicki and Leslie Fulford.

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

ACTS 9:1-6

Maggie Myers

Leader: A reading from the book of Acts, the ninth chapter.

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

JOHN 21:1-19

Rev. Becky

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to John, the twenty-first chapter.

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Rev. Becky

RESPONDING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Joanna

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 Depart to Serve:



MISSION INVITATION

David Nassau

Designated gifts go to support **Bikes for All People**, a non-profit social enterprise of Community Development for All People, which strives to provide low-or-no cost bicycles, bicycle parts, accessories, and quick while-you-wait repairs and services. They also offer meaningful volunteer experiences, fully refurbished bikes for sale, and public shop use and repair assistance to the community, many of which are low to moderate income community members; they strive to have affordable and accessible options for all. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Amazing Grace"

arr. Anna Laura Page, 2003

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

"All hail the power of Jesus' name" (*verse 1 only*)

Coronation, Oliver Holden, 1793

Edward Perronet, 1779, John Rippon, 1787

4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran-somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery kin-dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Joanna

All: **Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.**
Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.
And let the called and redeemed of God say, "Amen."

COMMUNION

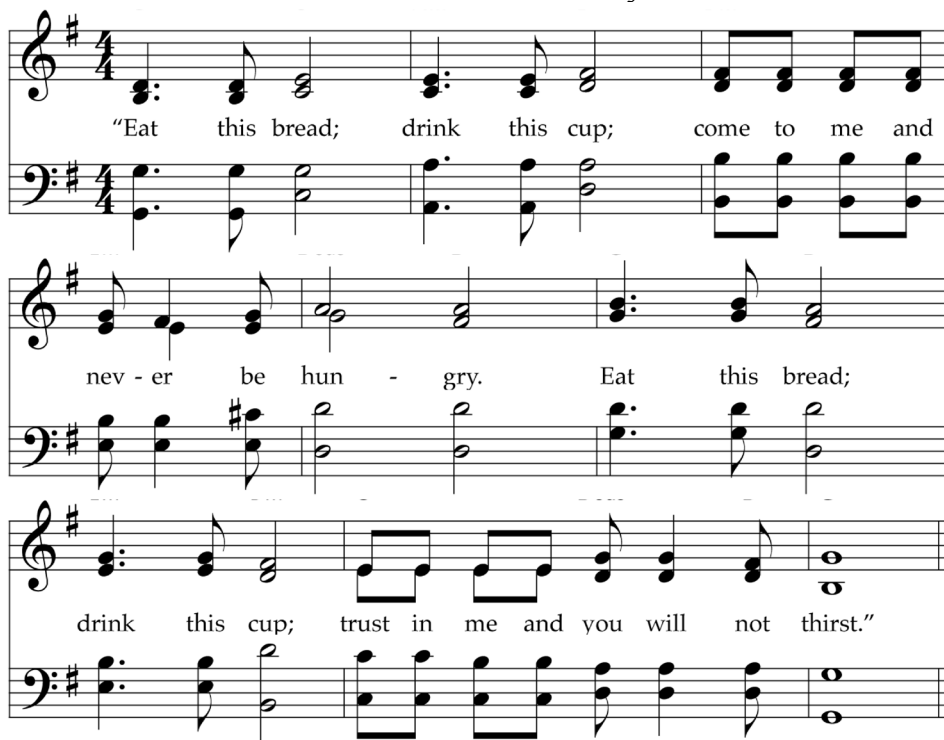
Rev. Becky and Rev. Joanna

COMMUNION HYMN

"Eat this bread"

Berthier, Jacques Berthier, 1984

Robert J. Batastini and Taizé Community, 1984



"Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and
nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread;
drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst."

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Joanna

Leader: Blessed are you, O God
 for all the gifts your pour out on your people.
People: **Help us, now nourished and strengthened by this meal,**
 to pour ourselves out in love, compassion, and mercy,
 to those most in need of your presence. Amen.

SENDING

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader Let us depart with a heart to serve.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Becky

*CLOSING HYMN

“Halle, halle, hallelujah”

Halle, Halle, Caribbean melody
arr. John L. Bell, 1990, Traditional

Refrain

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

hal - le -

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le -

hal - le -

lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Fine

Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found peace and grace here and invite you to return often. If you would like more information or have any questions about First Church, please ask anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.

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“Halle, halle, hallelujah” Arr. John Bell, 1990. © 1990; The Iona Community. GIA Publications, Inc., agent. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*

Maggie Myers, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

First Church Campanelle

Jennifer Fry, *director*

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

Geoffrey Dean, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

May 4, 2025

This Week at First Church

Sunday, May 4

- 9 a.m. Informal Worship Service & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Sunday School (Various Classrooms)
Parent Coffee & Conversation (Adult Library)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)
Stewardship & Church Growth Mtg (Parish Family Rm)
- 4 p.m. Concert (Sanctuary)

Monday, May 5

- 12 noon Card Care Ministry Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg (Fanning Rm & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, May 6

- 4 p.m. Church Vitality (Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Communications & Technology Mtg (Zoom)
Justice & Mercy Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 8:15 p.m. Personnel Commission Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 7

- 9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day (Good Sam Office)
- 12 noon Music at Midday (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg (Stephen Ministry Rm)
- 7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, May 8

- 12 noon Lunch Bunch (The Little Grand Market)
- 4:30 p.m. Choristers (Music Activities Rm)
- 6 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Friday, May 9

- 10 a.m. Full Circle Connections (Parlor)

Sunday, May 11

- 9 a.m. Informal Worship Service & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Sunday School (Various Classrooms)
Adult Education (Classroom C)
Parent Coffee & Conversation (Adult Library)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Concerts at First Church:
Caroline Robinson, organ
Today at 4 p.m.

Laundry Love Donations

"If I had clean clothes people would treat me like a human being." - T-Bone (Eric)

Our cupboard is bare. Laundry Love needs liquid detergent for our Washland visits. Please leave detergent donations by the Giving Tree or by the Office during the month of May. For more information on Laundry Love, please scan the QR code below.



Sign Up Now for the Youth Mission Trip

All youth, ages 7th – 12th grades, and interested adults are encouraged to attend the urban immersion youth mission trip to Camp Washington UCC in Cincinnati this July. Many hands make light work, and we need yours to make it happen! Please let Leslie (lfulford@first-church.org) know if you are interested and which dates, Sunday-Thursday July 6-10 or 20-24, you would be available. You can learn more about the camp by scanning the QR Code below.



Music at Midday Rees Taylor Roberts, organ Wednesday, May 7, 12:15 p.m.

Take a break from the busy workweek and enjoy the artistry of organist Rees Taylor Roberts, a graduate of Indiana University and Arizona State University.

First Church Book Club Wednesday, May 7

Solito: A Memoir

Questions? Want to receive book club emails?
Please call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742.

From the Moderator Leadership Retreat May 31

Last week I asked, “How do you envision God’s call – in your life, and in the life of First Church?” On Saturday, May 31st, we’ll gather as leaders of First Church to review our Long-Range Plan of 2027 and to envision how we see the church moving into the future.

All Council members, Deacons, Trustees, members of Commissions, and members of the Transition Team, please reserve this date for a day-long (5 hours) time for conversation and envisioning our future together. Thank you.

Sarah Reed, Moderator

Lunch Bunch Thursday, May 8, 12 noon - 1:30 p.m. The Little Grand Market in Grandview Crossing

The Little Grand Market in Grandview Crossing has ten exceptional local vendors, vendors that are setup for socializing, and relaxing patios with impressive city views. It’s new and getting wonderful reviews. Scan the QR Code to register.



Keep in Prayer

Members Ron Jenkins; James Velo; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Mike Weddle; Francille Firebaugh; Pauline Fritz; Nancy Burba; John Carter; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt; and Janice White.

Family and friends Annette McCormick's brother, Bill McCormick; Melissa Kulwicki's friend, Sandy Bushong; Kathy Reed's friend, Tom Faist; the Speakman family; Michael Russell's friends, Donald Featheroff, Jr. and Ryan Featheroff; Wendy and Robert Reber's sister-in-law, Judy Reber; Tom Kiesel's friend, Carrie; Robyn and Mike Petras; Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers; BOBS volunteers, John Holly and Sandy Waters-Holly; Shelly Gies' brother, Mike Simms; Victor John's father, Charles John and mother, Mary Jane John; Amy Wagner's friend, Lee Gatton; Michael Russell's friend, Teresa Elliott; Amanda Butler's aunt, Hattie Coatney; Bob and Lorraine Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples; Arevena Nirote's sister and brother-in-law, Marlene and Gary Gallion; and Fran and Bruce Panek's friends, Richard and Beverly Cicenias.

Those who mourn Jim Griffin on the death of his friend, Cheryl Meade; Jeff Lowy on the death of his mother, Carol Lowy; Matt Myers on the death of his cousin, Laura Weisgarber; and Annette McCormick on the death of her father, Charles McCormick.

We keep Stephen Ministers in prayer as they care for our church members.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the people and churches in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission Pravaham and the Church of South India.

Join in the Columbus Pride Parade

Come join us for the Columbus Pride March on June 14. Step-off is at 10:30 a.m. and will start at the State House (more details are coming). The walk is approximately 1.5 miles on asphalt pavement and will take approximately 2 hours. If you are interested in marching or supporting Columbus Pride please register. You can email Annette McCormick (amccormick@first-church.org), for more information.

T-shirts are available starting at \$30 and must be pre-paid; all proceeds go to First Church Pride funds to cover all costs. You must order your shirt no later than Wednesday, May 21. Please indicate the size needed and select either tie dye or lavender. Children's t-shirts are available; please email Melissa Kulwicki (mkulwicki@first-church.org) to order children's sizes.

T-Shirts are available to all whether marching or not. Please email Melissa Kulwicki to place non-marching t-shirt orders.

As always, if you would like to support the costs of marching, you may donate to Columbus Pride in the Realm dropdown list.

Register by scanning the QR Code.



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



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

444 E Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614-228-1741

www.firstchurcharts.org | home@first-church.org

