



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT NINE
JUNE 1, 2025
SEVENTH 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

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

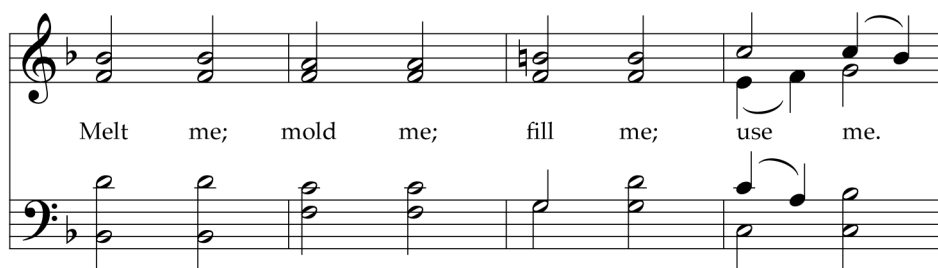
Rev. Becky

*SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

Living God, Daniel Iverson, 1926

"Spirit of the Living God"

Daniel Iverson, 1926



Leader: Abba God, we come seeking a presence that
shakes foundations and helps us build new ones.
We come with all our wounds, asking for healing.
Ww come, remembering our baptism and
wanting to claim the difference that makes in our lives.
We come through the shadowy clouds of our unbelief, seeking the brightness of your glory.

People: **O God, we want a faith to sustain us through times of trial and testing.
Be powerfully present with us, gracious Spirit. Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG

"All hail the power of Jesus' name" (v.1)

Coronation, Oliver Holden, 1793

Edward Perronet, 1779; John Rippon, 1787

Descant

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!

(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.)

**We believe in God the Father,
who reveals his love to us in Christ.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who pours out God's Holy Spirit on us.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who teaches us God's truth.**

**We believe in one God:
Father, Son, and 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 16:16-34

Maggie Myers

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

With Paul and Silas, we came to Philippi in Macedonia, a Roman colony, and, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He

brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

JOHN 17:20-26

Rev. Becky

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

Jesus prayed for his disciples, and then he said. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

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

Amanda Erickson

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Kaleidoscope Youth Center (KYC)**. Kaleidoscope operates a drop-in center in Columbus that provides services and support for LGBTQ+ youth. The center works to provide a safer place, programming, and leadership opportunities so that youth can be free to explore who they are and empowered to become their confident, truest selves. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

“Crown him with many crowns”

Diademata, Matthew Bridges, 1851

George Job Elvey, 1868

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His reign shall know no end; and round his pier - ed feet
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

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

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: "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

All: We thank you O God for this sacred meal
A proclamation of Your goodness
A thanksgiving for Your grace
And a sharing in Your life.
With joyful hearts we celebrate in this way until Jesus returns. 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*

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

Peter Murray, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship **Depart to Serve**

June 1, 2025

This Week at First Church

Sunday, June 1

9 a.m. Worship Service &
 Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
 10 a.m. Family Playground Time
 (Sam Gordon Playground)
 Adult Education (Classroom C)
 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
 12 Noon Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales
 (Parish Hall)
 12:15 p.m. Liturgists Training (Sanctuary)

Monday, June 2

12 Noon Card Care Ministry Mtg
 (Fanning Rm)
 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg
 (Fanning Rm & Zoom)
 7 p.m. House & Grounds
 Commission Mtg
 (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, June 3

4 p.m. Church Vitality Commission Mtg
 (Panera, Worthington Mall)
 6 p.m. Music Committee Mtg (Parlor)
 7 p.m. Communications & Technology
 Commission Mtg (Zoom)
 Justice & Mercy Commission Mtg
 (Classroom C & Zoom)
 Personnel Commission Mtg
 (Zoom)

Thursday, June 5

9:30 a.m. Stewardship & Growth
 Commission
 (Classroom C & Zoom)
 10 a.m. Fiber Arts Ministry Mtg
 (Fanning Rm)

Saturday, June 7

10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Adult Library)

Sunday, June 8

9 a.m. Worship Service &
 Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
 10 a.m. Family Playground Time
 (Sam Gordon Playground)
 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
 12 Noon Coffee Hour &
 Congregational Conversation
 (Parish Hall)

April Budget and Finance Update

Scan the QR code below for the April 2025 Budget and Finance update.



Sunday Story Readers Needed

Join the children of First Church for story time during the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services. Thoughtful stories for you to read are selected by Miss Melissa and the youthful energy in the room is a great way to start your Sunday! Spots are open, pick your date! Contact Leslie at lfulford@first-church.org.

Enjoy Summer Reading with the First Church Book Club

Have fun getting to know other church members while discussing a wide range of books. We gather on Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. for lively conversation. All are welcome!

June 4

Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf

Published in 1925, *Mrs. Dalloway* is our centennial read. Set in London in the wake of WWI and the 1918 flu pandemic, the story unfolds over a single June day as Mrs. Clarissa Dalloway prepares for an evening dinner party. The stream-of-consciousness narrative explores time, relationships, and the search for meaning in a rapidly changing world.

Who are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are members of your congregation trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered, and confidential care. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they are equipped with caring ministry skills by your congregation's Stephen Leaders. A Stephen Minister has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support. A new Stephen Ministry Training course starts on August 6. Contact care@first-church.org for more information.



Getting Ready to Move? Helping a Friend or Family Member Down-Size? Just Cleaning Things Out at Home?

If you—or someone you know—happen to fall into one of the categories mentioned above, your church archivists have a heartfelt request: If you come across any items related to First Congregational Church that are no longer wanted or needed, we would be grateful to receive them!

Examples of helpful materials include Sunday bulletins, special programs, newspaper articles, membership directories, annual reports, books, posters, significant photographs, certificates, correspondence, and other related items. These pieces may help fill important gaps in our church's historical record—no item is too small or too large.

If you're ready to part with such materials, please place them in envelopes or boxes and leave them on the designated cart in the Adult Library (near Parish Hall). Be sure to include your name and contact information. We'll review the items, preserve what is valuable for the Archives, and responsibly dispose of anything that isn't needed.

Keep in Prayer

Members Peter Worley; Janice Taft; 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 Mark Sholl's mother, Kaye Sholl; Melissa Kulwicki's mother, Judy Blandi, and her friend, Sandy Bushong; Rose Kandel's friend, Boyce Lancaster, and family; Stephanie and Bob Childs; the Speakman family; Wendy and Robert Reber's sister-in-law, Judy Reber; Tom Kiesel's friend, Carrie; Robyn and Mike Petras; Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers; Shelly Gies' brother, Mike Simms; Victor John's father, Charles John and mother, Mary Jane John; Amy Wagner's friend, Lee Gatton; Amanda Butler's aunt, Hattie Coatney; Bob and Lorraine Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples; and Fran and Bruce Panek's friends, Richard and Beverly Cicenias.

Those who mourn Kathy Reed on the death of her friend, Tom Faist; Arevena Nirote and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Gary Gallion; Margaret Cipriani's friend, Christie Baker on the death of her husband.

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 on the Indian Ocean Islands of Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, and Seychelles. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission the Dansalan College in Marawi City and Lanao del Sur in Southern Philippines.

Congregational Conversation with Rev. Becky

Sunday, June 8

Following 11 a.m. Worship

and on Zoom Wednesday, June 11, at 6 p.m.

Everyone is invited to participate and encouraged to bring your joys and concerns to this question and answer session with Rev. Becky. Sandwich, salad, and drinks provided. Please RSVP on Realm by scanning the QR code or by contacting Pat Patterson (ppatterson@first-church.org). The deadline to register is Wednesday, June 4.

There will be an additional session via Zoom on Wednesday, June 11 at 6 p.m. Meeting information can be found below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89364175078?pwd=78AI23HIINgomaJEXLRjiupItRtwOF.1>

Meeting ID: 893 6417 5078

Passcode: 329590



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

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