

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

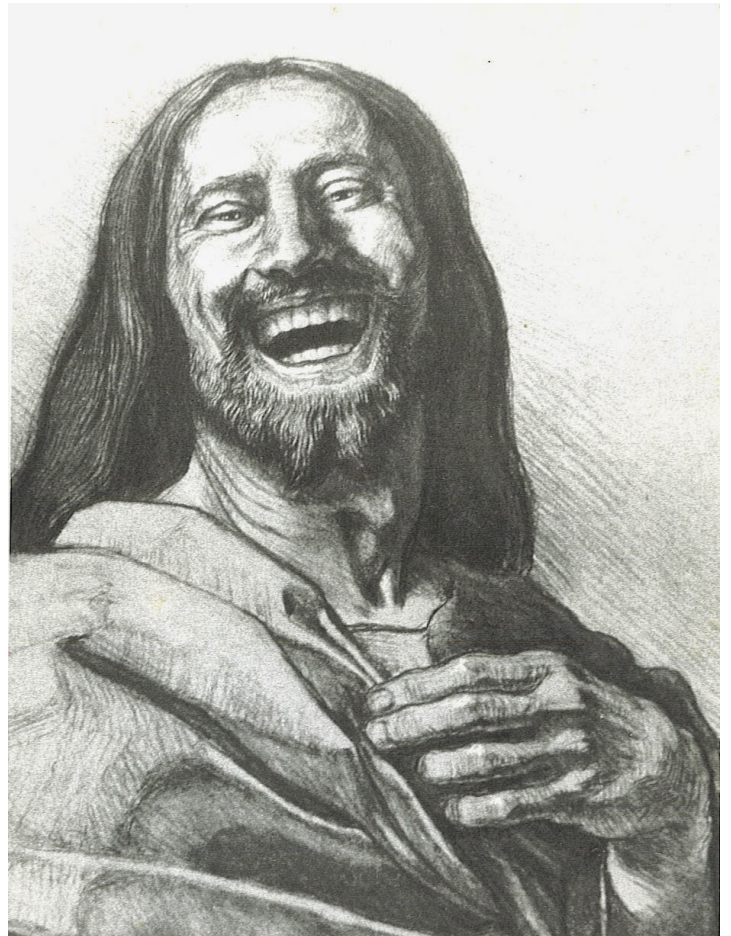
MAY 9, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME
MOTHERS DAY

*We respond to God's call
by welcoming everyone
regardless of ability, age, ethnicity,
race, gender identity, sexual orientation
or socio-economic background.*

*To proclaim in word and deed
the love of Christ,
we affirm that all may share in the full life,
ministry, fellowship, responsibilities and
blessing of our congregation.*

*No matter who you are or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*



Order of Worship

An asterisk () indicates that worshipers are standing in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *Ode to Joy* arr. Hal Hopson

TOLLING THE BELL

INTROIT *Bless This House* May Brahe
(Chancel Choir)

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME Laura Cooper, *Announcer*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) from Ecclesiastes 24

Wisdom is telling her story in the midst of her people:

“I came forth from the heart of the Most High,” she says.

“Alone I searched for a place to rest.

I looked everywhere to find a place to live.

Then the Creator of all things instructed me:

‘Pitch your tent here in this place.’

So in the beloved community I took up residence.

I have taken root in these people.

I have grown as tall as an oak tree,

I have taken on many colors.

I have spread out my branches like a candelabra.

**My blossoms bear the fruit of openness and care. Approach
and take your fill.”**

Come, let us seek Wisdom at work in all lives, and especially in the
lives of her daughters!

***RAISING THE COVENANT** Laura Cooper

**We who are called of God into this Christian community covenant
together: to seek to know the will of God, to experience the joy
and struggle of discipleship, to proclaim in word and deed the love
of Christ, and to work for peace and justice among all people. We
trust God’s promise of grace and forgiveness and the presence of
the Holy Spirit in our trials and rejoicing.**

***HYMN** *Womb of Life* Ruth Duck

Womb of life, and source of being,
home of ev’ry restless heart,
in your arms the worlds awakened;

you have loved us from the start.
We, your children, gather 'round you,
at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories tears and laughter,
we are nurtured by your care.

Word in flesh, our sibling Jesus,
born to bring us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us,
knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles,
Life of Life, and Death of Death,
risen Christ, come stand among us,
send the Spirit by your breath.

Brooding Spirit, move among us;
be our partner, be our friend.
When our mem'ry fails, remind us
whose we are, what we intend.
Labor with us, aid the birthing
of the new world yet to be,
free of servant, lord, and master,
free for love and unity.

Mother, Sibling, holy Partner;
Father, Spirit, only Child:
we would praise your name forever,
one-in-three, love fierce and mild.
We would share your joy, your passion,
share your word of life made new,
ever singing, ever praising,
one with all, and one with you.

***PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)**

Rev. Merrimon Boyd, *Student Pastor*

God our Mother, here are we, children of your Spirit and your world. We marvel at the joy we have known and are coming to know, thanks to you. Beloved of you as we are, we should have no problem telling others about your love, and certainly no trouble showing it. But, like children with their earthly parents, we have often avoided the spiritual joy of sharing our Mother's love. To take up the work again, we depend upon your grace, and your faith in us. Thank you for the assurance of forgiveness you have given in Christ Jesus. We will persevere. Lead on, our Love, our Joy, our Redeemer! Amen.

THE WORD SHARED*From Christian History*

Acts 10:44-48

Rev. Boyd
NRSV, ad.

[While in the home of Cornelius, the first Gentile convert to Christianity, Peter shared the good news of God's peace, and] the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The Jewish believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

From the Gospels

John 15:9-12

NRSV, ad.

[Gathered with his disciples for their last supper together, Jesus said to them,] "As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Abba's commandments and abide in God's love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment: That you love one another as I have loved you."

*Response.*Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.**People: Thanks be to God.****ANTHEM***Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring*
(Chancel Choir)

J. S. Bach

MESSAGE OF THE DAY*"Christ's Joy
in Us, Completely"*Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor***INTERLUDE***Acclamation in G Minor*
(Canterbury Bells)

Kenneth Thompson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE*Joys and Concerns*

Rev. Elston McCowan

Prayer of the Day

Rev. Denoon

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

tr. Denoon

Our Mother beyond this realm of sense and understanding, make your name holy. Come and reign, so that life here may be heavenly. Grant us nourishment for today and tomorrow, and

**forgive us what we owe you as we forgive those who owe us.
Prevent us from following meaningless pursuits; no, guide us
away from them. And your reign shall be powerful and majestic
and always. Amen.**

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Laura Cooper

Invitation

What joy we have, gathered in the Spirit, knowing the Christ and serving God! And we can present that joy to the world. Combining material gifts, we are able to serve and support our community and communities all over the world. While the health crisis continues, until it is safe again to pass plates or collect in person, we'll be receiving offerings only by mail or online. If you are able financially, and you would like to support First Church with a monetary donation, please either send a check to

First Congregational Church
10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, Missouri 63119

or go to our website – FirstChurchWG.org – and to our “Donate” page. Thank you.

Song of Praise

Doxology

Tune: OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Laura Cooper

O God, please take these gifts and multiply them; let them be a means to create the justice and peace and joy you long for in this world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Denoon

POSTLUDE

La Rejouissance (The Rejoicing)
from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

G. F. Handel

DISMISSAL

Laura Cooper

We Hold in Our Prayers

- Our residents in assisted living and skilled care – Sharon Beal, Joyce Berger, Paul Davis, Margery Gable
- All people who are living with dementia, their families and their caregivers – Bob Buerk and others
- People we love who are living with cancer – Bill Barrett, Jim Bennett, Margaret Gustafson, Peter McHugh, Bob Moody
- All those the world regards as disabled – especially David & Becky Scott
- People recovering from recent hospitalizations – Jean Kohler
- People with mental illnesses, as well as the people who love and care for them
- People who are lonely or alone because of the pandemic
- Those whose employment and businesses are at risk
- COVID-19 patients
- Front line workers and their loved ones
- For our governmental leaders, and for healing for our country and all its people
- Peace with justice

Thank you to this Week's Hospitality Team

Lelia & Eric Lindhorst, Katie & Ian Didriksen, Doug Miller, Laura Cooper, and Jeanene Harris

Electronic Device Users

If you wish to access our wi-fi, our network connections are: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3. The password for each is firstchurch.

Finding Your Way at First Church

The Nursery: The Nursery is attended today. The Nursery is located through the double doors at the end of the Narthex (foyer), turn left. Nursery/Toddler Room is on your right (Dutch doors).

Restrooms: Family restrooms are located to the right of the Narthex (foyer) as you go to the Library (look for the blue library banner) and to the left of the Narthex just before the double doors. ***If you need to step out during worship, please use the aisle closest to your seat, and enter/exit by using the nearest door.***

Week at a Glance

Sunday, May 9 — Mother's Day

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Immediately After Worship – Fellowship in the Jubilee Garden

11:00 AM Fellowship on Zoom

Monday, May 10

7:00 PM Three Ministries (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 11

10:30 AM - Noon Staff Meeting (Please note: Staff will be unavailable at this time)

6:30 PM Practicing Our Faith – Location TBD

Thursday, May 13

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice



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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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<http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>

