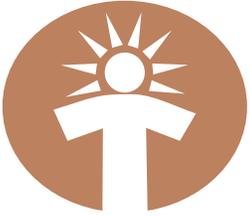


# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

**MAY 16, 2021**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY**

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*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.*

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## Order of Worship

**PRELUDE** *Majesty of Christ Praying* O. Messiaen  
from *The Ascension*

**TOLLING THE BELL**

**INTROIT** *Sacred Moment* A. Schreiner

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

**WELCOME** Andrea Welnick, *Announcer*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive – Leader; **People**) From Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to your God, all the earth; worship the holy One with gladness, and come into God's presence with singing.

**Let it be known that Yahweh is the God who made us and whose we are. We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Enter these gates with thanksgiving and these courts with praise.

**Give thanks to the holy One and bless God's name.**

For our God is good, whose steadfast love endures forever.

**And divine faithfulness lasts to all generations.**

**\*RAISING THE COVENANT** (Unison) *Covenant of 1977*

**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** *They'll Know We Are Christians* Peter Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored,

*Refrain.*

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: *Refrain.*  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: *Refrain.*  
All, praise our Creator from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one: *Refrain.*

**\*PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)**                      Rev. Merrimon Boyd, *Student Pastor*  
**Loving God, shepherd of our souls, hear the longing of our hearts  
for fullness of life. Too often we have exchanged the gift of your  
grace for things that do not endure. We speak of Jesus Christ with  
reverence but have so often spent our days in service to selfish  
ends. We sing of our Savior's reign but have chosen to believe  
more often in our own self importance. Deliver us from  
everything that confounds our relationships with you and one  
another. Be present with us now, and guide us into your grace and  
truth. We ask this in the name of the one who taught us to pray  
for your reign to come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY**

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Gospels*

Matthew 25:31-45

Rev. Boyd  
NRSV, ad.

When the Human One comes in glory, and all the angels as well, then the Human One will sit on the throne of glory. All the nations will be gathered, and people will be separated one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and the sheep will be given the place of honor and the goats given the place of accursedness.

Then the ruler will say to those in the favored place, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Parent, inherit the commonwealth prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer, 'Sovereign, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and

welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the ruler will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Then the ruler will say to those others, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’

Then they also will answer, ‘Sovereign, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’

Then the answer will come, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

*Response.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*I Choose Love*  
(Chancel Choir)

Mark Miller

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**    “*When You Care About Jesus*”    Rev. Elston McCowan,  
*Student Pastor*

**INTERLUDE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Joys and Concerns*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

*Prayer of the Day*

Rev. McCowan

*Prayer of Our Savior* (Unison)

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

Andrea Welnick

*Invitation*

*Song of Praise*

*Doxology*

Tune: OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

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)*

**Sovereign Christ, we know that your reign over our lives is shown by our use of the resources we receive from the Creator. Creating God, we remember the words of Christ, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Holy Spirit, we offer now our treasure to your will; bless and send it to extend the riches of Christ’s reign. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION (Responsive)**    *A Prayer for Justice*

Rev. McCowan

Lord, may justice flow like a river

**Reaching barren lands and sun scorched deserts.**

Where people feel forgotten and hopeless,

**Let your water of life comfort them.**

Where children lie abandoned or abused,

**Let your water of life protect them.**

Where communities suffer at the hands of prejudice,

**Let your water of life shield them. Lord, we ask for a mighty downpour from heaven.**

May all your children hear your voice.

**May we live as you lead us to live, go as you bid us to go, serve as you inspire us to serve, give as you teach us to give.**

Until the earth is covered with the glory of God

**As the waters cover the sea.**

Amen.

**And amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

arr. Diane Bish

**DISMISSAL**

Andrea Welnick

## **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**

Linda & Laszlo Kopetti, Faye Dyer, Elaine Coe, Marilyn Claggett, Dana Romeis

## **Electronic Device Users**

If you wish to access our wi-fi, our network connections are: fccwgl, 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 16**

**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 17**

**4:00 PM** Executive Ministry (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, May 18**

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

### **Wednesday, May 19**

**9:30 AM** Yoga with Jeanene (Inglis Room)

**7:00 PM - 9:00 PM** Healing Touch Practice

### **Thursday, May 20**

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

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



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

Moderator – Mark Edwards

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
[DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org)

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim  
[Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org)

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi  
[Admin@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Admin@FirstChurchWG.org)

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
[Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org)

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
[cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org)

Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I  
[lesrhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lesrhs@sbcglobal.net)

Director of MICA – Rev. Cliff Aerie  
[cliff.aerie@gmail.com](mailto:cliff.aerie@gmail.com)

Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Laurel Hayes  
[laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net)

Student Minister – Merrimon Boyd  
[merrimon.boyd@gmail.com](mailto:merrimon.boyd@gmail.com)

Student Minister – Elston McCowan  
[emccowan@eden.edu](mailto:emccowan@eden.edu)

*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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