

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

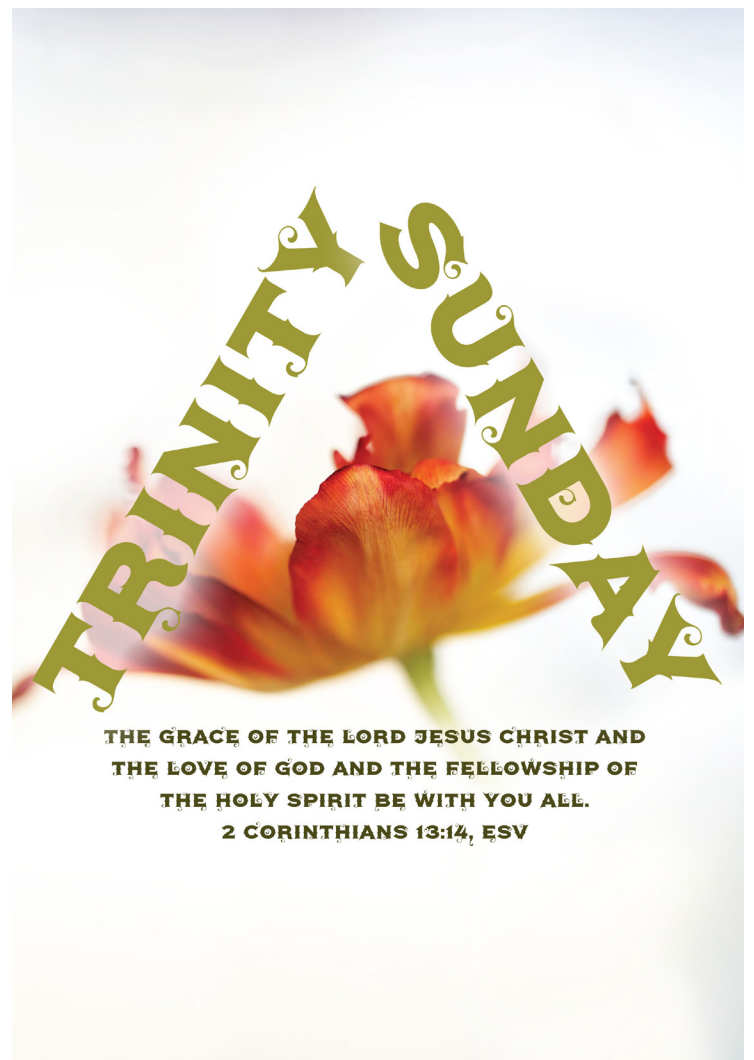
MAY 30, 2021

CELEBRATION OF THE TRINITY
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

*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 invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *All Glory be to God on High* F. W Zachow

TOLLING THE BELL

INTROIT *Ancient Mother* Traditional

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME Kedra Tolson, *Announcer*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) based on Isaiah 43:18-21

Our God says, “Forget the things of the past, ignore the things of long ago.

“Look, I am doing something new.

“Now it springs forth. Can’t you see it? I’m making a road in the desert.

I’m setting rivers to flow in the wasteland... for my people to drink.

“These people whom I formed for myself so that they may declare my praise.”

***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** *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* Jean Janzen
(inspired by Juliana of Norwich) arr. Staff

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me food of life –
Grain of life and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close,
So that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.

***PRAYER OF APPROACH (Litany)**

Iona Community

Holy Trinity, Sovereign over all you create, origin and goal of all that is, cosmic in reach yet infinite in love, embrace our hope and hurt this day with fatherly compassion, and bestow in your motherly heart a determined vision for justice and peace in the world of your divine imagination.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and eternal, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, made flesh with us in Jesus of Nazareth, touch our sin with the Redeemer's grace, share our suffering with the Companion's love, instruct our hearts with the Teacher's wisdom, and let manger, cross, and empty tomb become the pattern for our own lives – after the Christ who is our way, our truth, our life.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and eternal, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, pouring out abundant life in the dance and dreams of the Spirit, brooding over Eden and beckoning toward the New Jerusalem, invite us into the energy of your life that, together with all creation, we may conspire to be abundant signs and instruments of your design.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and eternal, have mercy on us.

Triune God we bless you, and we praise your holy name.

Amen.

THE WORD SHARED

Kedra Tolson

From the Gospels

John 3:1-10

The Inclusive Bible, ad.

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. "Rabbi," he said, "we know you're a teacher come from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God."

Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer: "The truth of the matter is, unless one is born from above, one cannot see the realm of God."

Nicodemus said, "How can an adult be born a second time? I can't go back into my mother's womb to be born again!"

Jesus replied: "The truth of the matter is, no one can enter God's realm without being born of water and the Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. So don't be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above.

"The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don't know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

"How can this be possible?" asked Nicodemus.

Jesus replied, "You're a teacher of Israel, and you still don't understand these matters?"

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Rev. Merrimon Boyd, *Volunteer*

*At the conclusion of Not for Children Only,
young people in the sanctuary are invited
to join Pastor Dave at the creativity station in the northwest corner
of the sanctuary.*

ANTHEM

I Am Willing

Holly Near

I am open and I am willing
To be hopeless would seem so strange
It dishonors those who go before us
So lift me up to the light of change

There is hurting in my family
There is sorrow in my town
There is panic in the nation
There is wailing the whole world round

May the children see more clearly
May the elders be more wise
May the winds of change caress us
Even though it burns our eyes

Give me a mighty oak to hold my confusion
Give me a desert to hold my fears
Give me a sunset to hold my wonder
Give me an ocean to hold my tears

MESSAGE OF THE DAY “*Are You Ready to Be Born Again?*”

Halley Kim
Pastoral Assistant

INTERLUDE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

Rev. Boyd

Halley Kim

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

Invitation

Kedra Tolson

**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.

**Offerings from "Messy Church"* Rev. Denoon & Friends

**Prayer of Dedication* (Unison)

Kedra Tolson

Maker, you cause us to be and to become. Redeemer, you open us to endless possibilities. Comforter, your holy presence reassures our hearts that it is right to be with you. God Three-in-One, bless the gifts of substance and of spirit that we offer this day to you and to your work. Make our offerings extensions of our substance, and agents of your genesis, renewal, and constancy. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

Halley Kim

POSTLUDE

Variations on Duke Street

Hal Hopson

DISMISSAL

Kedra Tolson

Sunday worship each week will be shared in person for those who wish to attend and streamed live on YouTube, starting at 10:00am (bit.ly/FCCWG-YT).

In-person worshipers will be masking and social distancing while in the hallways and sanctuary.

A Time for Fellowship will be provided in Memorial Hall and the Jubilee Garden, each Sunday after worship for those in person. Masking and distancing are optional in Memorial Hall and outdoors. Our Virtual Coffee Fellowship is no longer available.

CONFIRMATION BEGINS, TUESDAY, JUNE 8

A group of nine students will assemble on Tuesday, June 8, with leaders Pastor Dave Denoon and Pastoral Assistant Halley Kim at 6:30PM in the William Sample Chapel, to begin their regular, twice-monthly meetings. Using the curriculum, *Confirm Not Conform*, students will become acquainted with Christianity, our church, and our denomination.

The Confirmation Class will have all the parts you have come to expect – adult mentors (please see the following article), experiences at houses of worship of other religions, a lock-in at the church, and service opportunities. The class will be in recess during the months of July and December, but the remaining ten months will accommodate the twenty sessions planned and our celebration of their work – the “iConfirm” worship service on June 5, 2022.

If you know someone who ought to be enrolled in Confirmation, this year, please have them contact Halley at (314) 962-0475, ext. 12 or Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org.

SEEKING CONFIRMATION MENTORS

If you read the article above, then you can imagine that we are seeking adults who are church members who would be interested in serving as mentors for the Class of 2022. *Would you please consider serving as a mentor, to accompany one of these vibrant young people on an exploration of faith and discipleship?* If so, please contact the Pastor (with a call to 314-962-0475, ext. 11; or an email to DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org).

Let's Spread Some Love — It's Time for a Parade!

Mark your calendar for Sunday June 6th at 2pm because we're going to deliver some cheer! If you are a family of young kids or teenagers, we invite you to be IN the parade. If you are a church member who has been isolated during COVID or could use some good old fashioned JOY for any reason, we invite you to be a stop ON the parade! Halley and all participating kids, youth, and parents will make out a route and parade past your residence in our decorated cars. We will honk, blow bubbles, shout hooray, and provide general merriment and silliness! Each church member who registers to be a "stop" on the parade route will also receive a homemade goody in addition to the hoopla of the parade itself! Please contact Halley at Hally.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org or call 314-962-0475, ext. 12, to register, either as a parade participant or benefactor. Further details to follow. *We have a good group of cars, but would love to have 5 additional cars to make it great!!!* Hip, hip hooray!

UPCOMING MEMORIALS

Carol McCoy – Saturday, June 5, at 2:00PM

Dennis Fales – Saturday, June 19, at 10:00AM

James H. Bennett, Jr. – Tuesday, June 29 at 1:00PM

Fred Kaul - Tuesday, July 6 at 10:00AM

All these services will follow the same health protocols as for Sunday mornings – masks and social distance required in the sanctuary and hallways; masks and distance optional in Memorial Hall.

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, 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

Amy & Patrick Byrne, Mary & Mark Edwards, Pat Doyle Grace, and Kay & Phil Roush

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 30 – Trinity Sunday

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

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship – Memorial Hall or Jubilee Garden - Following Worship

Monday, May 31 – Memorial Day – Office Closed

Tuesday, June 1

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

1:00 PM – Communications Team

Wednesday, June 2

9:30 AM – Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

6:00 PM – “Summer of Conversations” Training - Memorial Hall

Thursday, June 3

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

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

Saturday, June 5

2:00 PM – Memorial Service celebrating the life of Carol McCoy



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Contact Information

Moderator – Mark Edwards

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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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

