

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
SUNDAY OF PRESIDENTS 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.*

This month, our cover art presents each week a different biblical character from Africa. Today's featured personage is Ebed-Melech ("King's Assistant"), a technically unnamed Ethiopian who would have been a member of the royal court or ambassador of the Candace, queen of Ethiopia. He witnessed an incident in which some of King Zedekiah's closest advisers cast the prophet into a cistern for having spoken against the royal government. Ebed-Melech reported the incident to the King who assigned three guardsmen to accompany him and rescue Jeremiah (38:7-13). In the following chapter, as the Babylonians seize Jerusalem, Ebed-Melech is blessed and protected from harm by a divine decree (39:15-18). Image source: GoodSalt.com

Order of Worship

An asterisk () indicates that worshipers are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

If you would like a personal joy or concern read aloud and you are at home, you may text 314-858-6710, or fill out a prayer card, found in the pew box.

Due to the surge of infections from the Omicron variant of Covid 19, we are requiring that everyone wear a mask indoors at First Congregational Church.

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken
Canterbury Bells

arr. Lloyd Larson

WELCOME

Marilyn Davis, *Announcer*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**)

from Luke 6

As we begin our worship together, let us remember the hard commandments of Jesus:
“Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you,
and pray for those who abuse you.

**“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners
love those who love them. If you do good only to those who do good to you,
what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.**

“Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will
be great, and you will be children of the Most High... who is kind even to the
ungrateful and the cruel.

“Be merciful exactly as your heavenly Parent is merciful.”

Holy word. Holy wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

*RAISING THE COVENANT

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.**

*GATHERING HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises
(No. 238, vv. 1,2 – *New Century Hymnal*)

John M. C. Crum

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Marilyn Davis

Introduction (Meditation)

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**God, dear God – above, around, within – we don’t want to dwell in the depths of
fear and anger. We long to be free for the sake of love and compassion.**

**Transform our inward selves – our hearts, our minds, our spirits – and raise
them up like new plants spring from seeds. Affirm for us the power of Christ’s
resurrection and the promise of our own. Forgive us, and make us new. We pray
in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.

Afterward, they may proceed to Sunday School classes, or return to their seats.

INTERLUDE

Deep River
Canterbury Bells

Traditional
arr. D. E. Harmany

SHARING THE WORD

From the Writings

Job 19:25-27

Marilyn Davis
Pew Bible, p. 458

I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

From the Epistles

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

p. 1048

³⁵ Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as God has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first human, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ So it was not the spiritual that came first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first human was from the earth, one made of dust; the second human is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the human from heaven, so are those who are from heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the human made of dust, we will also bear the image of the human from heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the realm of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Response.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth
from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

The Resurrection and You, Part 3:
"I Am Some Body"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior

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.

PARTING HYMN

Hymn of Promise
(No. 433 – *New Century Hymnal*)

Natalie Sleeth

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

Marilyn Davis

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Denoon

***POSTLUDE**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. W. & J. R. Johnson

It is requested that the Congregation remain standing out of respect for this piece of music, commonly known as “The Black National Anthem.”

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

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.

We Hold in Our Prayers

- Our residents in assisted living and skilled care – Sharon Beal, Joyce Berger, Paul Davis, Margery Gable, Shirley Moore
- All people who are living with dementia, their families, and their caregivers
- People we love who are living with cancer – Margaret Gustafson
- All those the world regards as disabled – especially David & Becky Scott
- People with mental illnesses, as well as the people who love and care for them
- Peace with justice

Lady Elect –Tuesday, February 22 in Memorial Hall at 7:00 pm

Masking and social distancing protocols will be observed. Hostesses for the evening will be Judy Borutta and Laura Cooper. RSVP to Laura Cooper lolaco18@yahoo.com

All are welcome to this gathering. The program for the evening will be presented by Joan Musbach from a series she does for OASIS on Religion and the Founding Fathers. Joan will be speaking about America's second president, John Adams: *“From Puritan to Unitarian: The Religious Journey of John Adams.”* Learn about this interesting man who described himself as “a church going animal.”

Adult Education Events

Sunday, February 20

“Racial Discrimination Embedded in Law and Custom”

The session will be designed to increase our awareness, recognize progress that has been made to change historic wrongs, and areas in which progress awaits. We will meet after worship in the Kishlar Room or on Zoom (<http://bit.ly/JehovahJava>). If coffee fellowship has resumed, bring you coffee and gather about 11:20.

Our presenter will be Rob Good. Rob is a retired high school social studies teacher and an adjunct professor at the University of Missouri—St. Louis. In his 27-year career as a high school teacher Rob focused on issues of equity and inclusion in both the curriculum and the policies and practices of the Ladue school community. He has facilitated diversity workshops and dialogue groups for a wide variety of organizations including the National Conference for Community and Justice—St. Louis, the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, the YWCA’s Witnessing Whiteness and Focus St. Louis. He has also served on the staff of NCCJ St. Louis’ Anytown Youth Leadership Institute, the Dismantling Racism Institute, and the Inclusion Institute for Educators.

Wednesday, February 23

SAGE will host an afternoon viewing of an address by Heather Cox Richardson

“Telling the Story of America in UnSettled Times”

Professor Richardson is speaking to a conference of Missouri history educators. She speaks about the 1619 Project and Critical Race Theory, exploring why they have become polarizing topics. She clarifies the realities of classroom instruction on topics revolving around race. Professor Richardson teaches nineteenth-century American history at Boston College. She is the author of the popular daily newsletter, *Letters from an American* (<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/>), which explores the history behind today’s politics. Her early work focused on the transformation of political ideology from the Civil War to the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. Her history of the Republican Party, *To Make Men Free* (2014) examines the fundamental tensions in American politics from the time of the Northwest Ordinance to the present.

Viewing of her address will be followed by conversation about the issues raised and perspectives obtained. This gathering will be at 2:00 in the Inglis Room and on Zoom (<http://bit.ly/JehovahJava>).

Sunday, February 27

“Movement Toward a Balanced History Curriculum”

Become aware of changes made in writing about and teaching U. S. History in response to the need for diversity, equity and inclusion in telling our story. Specifically, learn about the Social Studies (History) curriculum adopted by the Webster Groves schools. This session will help you develop an understanding of how the teaching of history has changed since our youth. Joan Musbach will provide information on these topics and facilitate discussion about issues raised. We will meet after worship in the Kishlar Room and on Zoom (<http://bit.ly/JehovahJava>). If coffee fellowship has resumed, bring you coffee and gather about 11:20.

It is strongly recommended that, if possible, you try to attend all the events in this series.

Window Shopping at the Giving Store

Our 2022 Benevolence Giving Store is now stocked with many delightful items. If you missed the chance to buy something in last year's store, here is a second chance. Many of the items you have loved in the past are available again along with some fun new things. Items are priced not as bargains, but as valuable premiums in exchange for your generous gift to the First Church Benevolent Fund. So, shop Extravagantly!

The Store will open for business on March 7, but you can browse beforehand and plan your shopping. To download a list with all the items currently offered, copy and paste the following link in your web browser. <https://tinyurl.com/giving-store>.

Tracey Harris to be Ordained!

In a Spirit of Celebration, the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ in Covenant with First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, **Invites you to the Service of Ordination for Tracey Harris** Sunday, February 27 at 3:00 pm here at First Congregational Church of Webster Groves

The Parish Life Ministry has purchased a stole for Tracey. If you would like to donate towards this gift, please send a check made out to FCCWG and put Tracey in the memo line.

What's Going on at First Church This Week

(Debbie Tolstoi, our Office Administrator, will be away on vacation, February 21-25.)

Sunday, February 20

9:00 AM Nursery Care Available
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Kids' Church
11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship
11:30 AM Adult Ed: "The Racial Divide," Part 1 (Kishlar Room & Zoom)
3:00 PM The St. Louis Chamber Orchestra performs in our Sanctuary. Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased at the door.

Monday, February 21

7:00 PM Executive Ministry (Zoom)

Tuesday, February 22

10:30 AM Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Confirmation Class
7:00 PM Lady Elect – Memorial Hall

Wednesday, February 16

~~9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene—Inglis Room~~
2:00 PM SAGE (Part 2 – Adult Ed series)
6:00 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

Thursday, February 17

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells Practice
7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G – Parlor
7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice

Sunday, February 27

9:00 AM Nursery Care Available
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Kids' Church
11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship
11:30 AM Adult Ed: "The Racial Divide," Part 3 (Kishlar Room & Zoom)
3:00 PM Ordination: Tracey Harris

**Wish Upon a Cloud – A Program for Off-Budget Projects
is Starting off with a Bang
Cloud Success Stories!**

A camera to enhance our streaming services has been pledged! The toaster for the office has been purchased! A financial gift for the Minister's fund has been made! For more information on this program, grab a form off the board in the Narthex or visit the Wish Upon a Cloud page on our website at <https://firstchurchwg.org/donate/wuac>.

Covenant News

Starting in March, we will have two-month combined issues of Covenant News. If you would like to get something in the March / April edition, please email any articles, images, etc. to Debbie (admin@firstchurchwg.org) in the office by March 28th.

February Meal-a-Month

Canned Tuna, packed in Water • Tuna Helper • Canned Carrots (low or no salt)
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Diapers • Diaper Wipes • Formula with Iron

How to Donate to First Congregational Church

You may leave a donation in the offering plate in the Narthex.

Send a check made out to FCCWG at:

First Congregational Church

10 W. Lockwood Ave.

Webster Groves, MO 63119

visit <http://firstchurchwg.org/donate> to make an electronic contribution or scan the QR code





10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
JWMusbach@gmail.com

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim
Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi
Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org

Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie
cliff.aerie@gmail.com

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
lesrhs@sbcglobal.net

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