

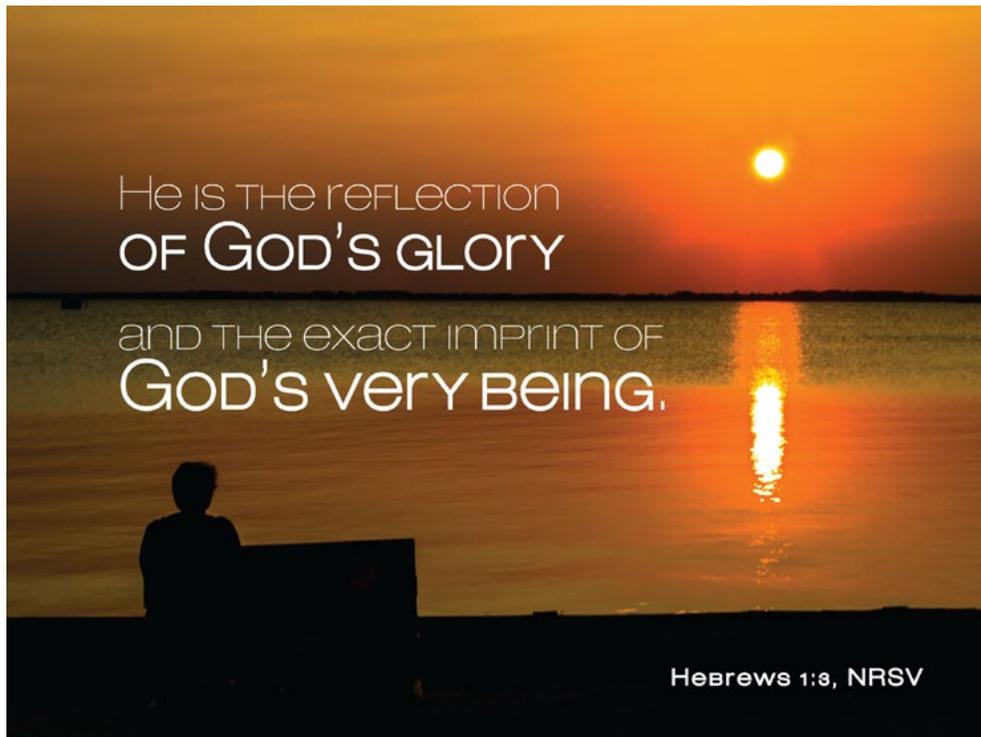
# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

**NOVEMBER 20, 2022**  
**MAJESTY OF CHRIST**



*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 the Congregation standing, in body or in spirit.*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

Bob Moody, *Liturgist*

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES

### TOLLING THE BELL

### OPENING WORDS (Responsive – Leader; **People**)

From Revelation 1

Grace to you and peace from the one who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before the throne of God, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the rulers of the earth.

**“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says our God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.**

### \*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

*Come, Ye Thankful People*  
No. 461, vv. 1,2 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

Henry Alford

### RITUAL OF APPROACH

*We Share Our Stories Before God*

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

**Holy and mighty God from whom all blessings flow, we confess that we have sometimes have missed the reality that we are designed to be your agents of blessing to others. Gentleness, kindness, encouragement, and healing – these are your ways for us, given their highest example in Jesus but made visible to us in inspired loved ones. Forgive us, we pray, if we have avoided your ways and gone in a direction we perceived was easier or clearer. Guide us anew into paths of blessing, for the sake of your shalom and by the name and example of our Messiah and Sovereign. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

\*Singing God's Glory

Doxology

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

(words by hymnist Brian Wren)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures high and low!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known;

Creator, Word, and Spirit One! Amen.

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY**

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

*The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.*

*Afterward, they may proceed to Kids' Church, or return to their seats.*

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Epistles*

Gabriel Requadt, *Student Minister*

Hebrews 1:1-9

Pew Bible, p. 1089

*Response.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"Christ As the Great Mystery"* Alyssa Catlin, *Guest Preacher*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God*

*Prayer of the Day (Interlude)*

*Grace Medley*

Alyssa Catlin, guitar

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

Featuring music of Fuhrmann,

Sanz, and others

*Prayer of Our Savior*

*New Zealand Prayer Book*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts that we absorb from another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*We Plow the Fields*

No. 460 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

Matthias Claudius

tr. J. M. Campbell

**OPPORTUNITIES ARISING**

**\*BENEDICTION**

May the Great Mystery inspire in you an attitude of humility to approach all those who you meet with grace and truth.

**May it be so.**

May the Giver of Life create in you a desire to radiate the light of love.

**May it be so.**

May Creator Sets Free bring to you a willingness to break down walls of hatred.

**May it be so.**

May the Great Spirit speak to our hearts what we truly need to hear.

**May it be so.**

May the One Above Us All work all things out for the good of the beloved world.

**May it be so.**

**POSTLUDE**

*During the Postlude, we encourage you to greet those around you, or to remain at your seat to enjoy the music until it has ended.*

*In the spirit of diversity, please be attentive to the possibility that one who is seated may be meditating.*

*When you are ready, please join other worshipers for refreshments in Memorial Hall.*

**About Today's Guest Preacher**

Alyssa Catlin grew up first in Los Angeles, and then in Idaho. She began playing classical guitar at age eight. In 2005, she moved to Missouri to attend Webster University where she became the first college graduate in her family, with a degree in classical guitar performance. She became an instructor in the Childbloom Guitar Program in 2006. Alyssa is blessed to live with her supportive (and fellow musician) husband, Chris, their daughters, Harmony and Ada Zane, and extended family in Saint Peters, Missouri. She loves to teach as a second generation homeschooler, perform music in several genres, work as a guitar instructor, learn about life, and read many books.

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**How to Donate to First Congregational Church**

You may leave a donation in the offering plate in the Narthex, OR

Send a check made payable 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 accompanying QR code.

**Connecting Remotely to Worship**

If you're joining us remotely, Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube, starting at 10am ([bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)).

### **Wi-Fi Info**

Recommended: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3  
Password for all: firstchurch.

### **Finding Your Way at First Church**

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

**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.

### **Update about Custodian Darrell Lakies**

We are saddened to report that Custodian Darrell Lakies died on Friday, November 18, with pancreatic-liver cancer. He was at home with his family at his bedside. Let us remember in prayer his wife Kelly and other family.

The Facility and Finance Ministry had planned to invite church members and friends to contribute to a retirement gift for Darrell. At this time, the Ministry is discussing alternatives for honoring our dear friend.

### **We Hold in Our Prayers**

- Our residents in assisted living and skilled care – Sharon Beal, Joyce Berger, Paul Davis, Margery Gable, Shirley Moore, Kitty Pearl, Jan Ver Hagen, Joan Whitford
- All people who are living with dementia, their families, and their caregivers
- People we love who are living with cancer – Margaret Gustafson
- Family, friends and all who loved Darrell Lakies
- Leo Gomez
- David & Becky Scott
- People with mental illnesses, and those who love and care for them
- Peace with justice

### **First Congregational Tee-Shirts are for Sale and in the Office!**

The church office is overflowing with FCCWG shirts so please come up and buy one! There are still a few on the desk by the kitchen door that have been ordered and awaiting pick up. The shirts are heavy duty 100% cotton and cost \$15 each. We have a variety of sizes. **Email Debbie** with questions.

### **News from Lady Elect**

The Lady Elect meeting on December 13 will be a cookie exchange at Pat's house. It will begin at 4:30 PM. Bring two dozen cookies and an empty tin. That's all that is needed to enjoy this fun evening! Please RSVP to either Pat Doyle-Grace or Laura Cooper.

### **Fresh Mammoth Pecans have Arrived!**

Four cases of fresh (not frozen) pecans were delivered last week. Beside the fact that the proceeds go to a needy and good cause, they happen to be the best pecans in the world!

We will be selling them at the same price we did last year, \$14 per bag. Please contact Debbie and let her know how many bags you would like. You can email her at [admin@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwg.org), or call her at the church at 314-962-0475 and let her know how many bags you would like.

Lady Elect has generously offered to sell them in the narthex on Sunday mornings after the services. ***The Proceeds shall go towards the Minister's Discretionary Fund to help Pastor Dave, help our neighbors and friends.***

Along with the Pecans, you can find First Congregational car/refrigerator magnets for sale on Sundays before and after worship. They are only \$5 each!

### **“Living Buddha, Living Christ” Discussion Last session, this Sunday, 11:20 AM in the Inglis Room**

Student Minister Gabriel Requadt is leading a Sunday Morning Book Discussion on the classic work, *Living Buddha, Living Christ*, by Vietnamese Buddhist monk and peace activist Thích Nhất Hạnh (1926-2021). In this wonderfully insightful interreligious meditation, Thích Nhất Hạnh offers his perspectives on the similarities and resonance of Christianity and Buddhism. Along the way, he offers plenty of helpful advice about how to practice your religion so that it benefits not only you but everyone and everything around you. Practicers of these two religions, he argues, ought themselves to become living Buddhas and living Christs!

### **Outdoor Christmas Tree Decorating Party Returns to the Jubilee Garden! Sunday, December 4 from 11:20 am - 2:00 pm**

Join us in the garden after worship on Sunday, December 4, to decorate our outdoor Christmas Tree with ornaments suitable for our animal friends. It has been customary for everyone to bring a bird feeder ornament to put on the tree. There will be a bonfire, caroling and beverages! *Sponsored by Parish Life Ministry*

### **Maybe This Is the Year for You to Experience YANKEE SWAP?**

Mike Lenard will host this year's Swap at his home, 1467 Heritage Valley Drive, High Ridge.

The party will start at 1:30 PM\*, on December 4th, with a potluck meal, and then we will do our crazy gift exchange. And we will finish before dark.

#### **Here Is the Drill:**

- Bring a handmade/homemade gift (unwrapped)-one per person
- Bring a side dish, salad, or dessert for the table (Sign up in the office for what you will bring)
- Pick up a map in the office.
- Call Garie Perry if you have questions. 314-698-2614
- Bring a generous donation for Webster Rock Hill Ministries

***\*Be sure to put an ornament on the tree in the Jubilee Garden before you leave church.***

### **First Saturday Drive Thru Collection**

In December we will be collecting Toys for Older Kids to be donated to Helping Hand-Me-Downs Their space is limited so we are looking for smaller sized items such as:

Board games • Card games like Uno or Go Fish • Pop-it's and Fidgets • Art Supplies  
Action figures • LOL dolls • Smaller Lego sets • Art projects that enhance creativity  
Puzzles • Mr. Potato Head • Pick Up Sticks  
or any toys that strengthen fine motor skills

***Of course cash donations to Helping Hand-Me-Downs will also accepted at the event.***

### **What's Going on at First Church**

#### **Sunday, November 20**

#### **Thanksgiving Sunday**

#### **Reign of Christ**

***Covenant News deadline!!***

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

**10:00 AM** Worship

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20 AM** Book Discussion – Inglis Room

**11:20 AM** First Friends Safety Presentation –Kishlar Room

#### **Monday, November 21**

**7:00 PM** Scout Troops 301 B & G

**7:00 PM** Executive Ministry - Zoom

#### **Tuesday, November 22**

**10:30 AM** Staff Meeting

#### **Wednesday, November 23**

**9:30 AM** Yoga - Inglis Room

**6:00 PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

**7:00 PM** Community Thanksgiving Worship at Christ Lutheran Church  
(Lockwood and Selma in Webster Groves)

#### **Thursday, November 24**

**Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed**

#### **Friday, November 25**

**Office Closed**

#### **Sunday, November 27**

#### **First Sunday of Advent**

**9:45am –11:15 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
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## Contact Information

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Custodian – Darrell Lakies

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

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