

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

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

MARCH 26, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



***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 blessings 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** *Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier* J S Bach

**WELCOME** Jennifer Jones, *Liturgist*  
*At this time, we invite you to complete an entry in the Friendship Booklet in your pew and to silence the ringer on any cellular device you may have with you.*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive – Leader; **People**) from Proverbs 9  
Wisdom calls from the highest places in town,  
**“You that are simple, turn in here!**  
Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine I have mixed.  
**Lay aside immaturity, and live, and go in the way of insight.”**

**\*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.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** *’Twas on that Dark and Doleful Night* Isaac Watts  
No. 558, vv. 1,2,4 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

**THE WORD SHARED** The Logos Readers<sup>+</sup>  
*From the Gospels* Mark 14:66-72 Pew Bible, pp. 928

**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.*

**RITUAL OF CONFESSION**

**\*Invitation to Confession** (Responsive)  
Siblings in Christ, we are called to be children of the day and not children of the night.  
**Let us approach our God’s grace that we may receive mercy.**

**\*Corporate Confession** (Unison)  
**Gracious God, Savior and Friend, as we reflect on the betrayal and denial of Jesus’ friends against him, we acknowledge that there have been times when we have distanced ourselves from**

**others who counted on us. As a community, we have sometimes been slow to answer your call for justice. Forgive us, we pray, and guide us as we seek forgiveness from others, for these sins we have committed, intentionally or unintentionally. Call us again, and we will answer faithfully. Amen.**

*\*Silence for Personal Confessions*

*\*Prayer for Mercy*

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

*\*Assurance of Pardon*

This is the message we have heard from Christ and proclaim to you: God is light.

**If we walk in the light as Christ is in the light, we have communion with one another, and Christ's sacrifice cleanses us from all sin.**

*\*Song of Praise*

*Sing Amen*

Trad. S. African

No. 760 (English) – *New Century Hymnal*

**ANTHEM**

*Wondrous Love*

arr. Paul Christiansen

Chancel Choir; Mark Cereghino, *soloist*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul,  
That caused the Lord of life  
To bear the heavy cross,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul,  
That Christ should lay aside His crown,  
That Christ should lay aside His crown for my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul...

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"Risking the Loss of Friends"*

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.**

**WE OFFER OF OURSELVES**

*Opportunities to Give and Gather*

\**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)

**You have given yourself for us, and now we give to you from out  
of the abundance you have shared. We dedicate our gifts to the  
healing and wholeness your Spirit can afford the world. Make  
real your love, O God. Amen.**

\***PARTING HYMN**

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*  
No. 226, vv. 1,3 – *New Century Hymnal*

Bernard of Clairvaux

\***BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Postlude*

Anton Bruckner

† Today's Logos Readers are (in order of appearance) Andrea Welnick, Rebecca Novak, Laurel Hayes, and Gabriel Requadt.

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**Wi-Fi Info**

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

**Connecting Remotely to Worship**

If you need to join us remotely, Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube, starting at 10am ([bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)).

**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.



### **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.

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

- Our members who are homebound, in assisted living, or skilled care – Sharon Beal, Becky Scott, 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
- Leo Gomez
- David Scott
- People with mental illnesses, and those who love and care for them
- Peace with justice

### **Lent Bible Study – Sundays at 11:20 AM**

*Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* – By Amy-Jill Levine

During Lent this year we are studying Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, which focuses on the last week of Jesus' life. Every chapter (and every corresponding Sunday service) considers a particular risk that disciples of Jesus face: questionable reputation, righteous anger, challenge, rejection, loss of friends, and temptation. Book discussions are in the Inglis Room. If you would like a copy of the book, please [contact Halley at halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org).

### **Easter Library Books Here in Our Holiday Library**

There are several books in our library for adults and children relating to Easter. They are on display waiting to be checked out! Just sign the card in the back of each book you take out and leave the cards in the basket on the library desk.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing – Special Collection Today**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

### **Lady Elect**

The March 28 Lady Elect meeting will be at noon in Ingles room. Bring your own lunch! **Joan Musbach** will present an entertaining power point on her **African safari**.

### **Easter Flower Sponsorships**

For Easter we enjoy having our sanctuary beautifully decorated with a variety of potted spring flowers. Forms for ordering flowers are available on the table in the narthex. Flowers are \$20 each. You may also designate your contribution in celebration, honor or memory.

### **Get in the Easter spirit on Holy Saturday!**

We will be **decorating the cross in Jubilee Garden** from 10am to 12pm, Saturday, April 8 — come by at your convenience to adorn it with flowers!

An indoor **Easter Egg Hunt** for children (toddlers through 5th grade) will take place at 10:00 also. Gather in Memorial Hall for a starting activity. Children then will be sent out to hunt in different parts of the church based on their age group. Bring your family and friends!

### **Coffee Cakes Needed!**

On **Easter Sunday, April 9th**, please bring coffee cakes to share during Coffee Fellowship. Continuing our annual Easter tradition, Parish Life Ministry requests that the cakes are pre-plated and ready-to-serve!

### **Pastoral Relations Committee Tuesday, April 4**

Confidentiality, acceptance, and trust: these are the primary values of the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC). Our PRC is composed of church members given the responsibility of fostering a healthy relationship between the pastor and church members.

The Committee meets bi-monthly (next time on April 4) and seeks to maintain open communication between pastor, staff, and congregants; it is not a personnel or policy-making committee. The discussions of the committee are confidential, thus allowing members the freedom to express varying views.

Current members include Jared Cohen, Annie Sampath, Liu Lin Thio, Patrick Byrne, Jane Porchey, Doug Barton, Pat Doyle-Grace, and ex-officio members Moderator Joan Musbach and Pastor David Denoon.

We encourage all congregants to feel free to discuss with PRC members their concerns and views, both positive and negative, about what is going on in the life of the church and bring to light any issues that ought to be discussed.

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

### **Sunday, March 26**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** **Worship**

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20 AM** Lent Bible Study

### **Monday, March 27**

**7:00PM** Peace & Justice (Zoom)

**7:00PM** Troops 30IB&G (Dickens)

### **Tuesday, March 28**

**12:00PM** Lady Elect (Inglis)

### **Wednesday, March 29**

**9:30AM** Yoga w/Jeanene (Inglis)

**6:00PM** Bridge Club (Inglis)

### **Thursday, March 30**

**9:00 AM** Journeymen (Parlor)

**6:00 PM** Canterbury Bells

**7:30 PM** Chancel Choir

### **Sunday, April 2**

***Palm Sunday***

***Sacrament of Christ's Table***

**9:00 AM** Brown Baggers

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** **Worship (All Ages)**

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20 AM** Lent Bible Study

### **Monday, April 3**

**7:00PM** Christian Education Ministry (Office)

**7:00PM** Parish Life Ministry (Inglis)

**7:00PM** Troops 30IB&G (Dickens)

### **Tuesday, April 4**

**1:00PM** Communications Team (Office)

**6:30PM** Practicing Our Faith (Parlor)

**6:30PM** Pastoral Relations Committee (Zoom)



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

## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
[JWMusbach@gmail.com](mailto:JWMusbach@gmail.com)

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
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Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim  
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Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
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Student Minister – Gabriel Requadt  
[erequadt@eden.edu](mailto:erequadt@eden.edu)

Custodian – Mark Metcalf

Weekend & Events Custodians –  
Dianna Konopka and Kayla Skiles

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity  
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie  
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Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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<https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchwg/>

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

