

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

NOVEMBER 17, 2024
CONSECRATION 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.*

Order of Worship

An asterisk () indicates the Congregation standing, in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE Processional on "Ora Labora" arr. Hal Hopson

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

WELCOME Nancy Rudolph, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**) from 1 Samuel 2

My heart exults in the HOLY ONE; my strength is exalted in my God.

**Let no one talk so very proudly, let no arrogance come from
anyone's mouth; for ours is a God of knowledge who weighs our
actions.**

The weapons of the mighty are broken, the feeble gird on strength.

**Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but
those who were hungry are fat with spoil.**

Our God raises up the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with the rich and the powerful.

**For our God owns the pillars of the earth, and on them God has
set the world.**

Great God: your adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven.

**The HOLY ONE will judge the ends of the earth; and will give
strength to the one who is coming in majesty; and will exalt the
power of the anointed.**

***OPENING HYMN** *Canticle of the Turning* Rory Cooney

Tune: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight and my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest! Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring: let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone;
Let the ruler beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from their throne
The hungry poor shall weep no more for the food they can never earn
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

Though the nations rage from age to age we remember who holds us fast.
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving Word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God who is turning the world around.

Refrain, twice

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Invitation to Confession* (Responsive)

from 1 John 1

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Prayer of Confession* (Unison)

Eternal One, Silence from whom our words come; Questioner from whom our questions arise; Lover of whom all our loves are suggestions; Disturber in whom alone we find our rest; Mystery in whose depths we find healing and ourselves; enfold us now in your presence; restore to us your peace; renew us through your power; and ground us in your grace. Amen.

**Words of Assurance* (Responsive)

inspired by Hebrews 10

In a cosmic reversal of fortune in which the eternal Christ died to sanctify a mortal world for all time,

God's Holy Spirit has spoken: "I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

And "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

Such a gift our God has given, setting aside our transgressions so that we may live anew! Thanks be to God!

**Singing God's Glory*

Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: GLORIA (HAAS)

The congregation repeats each line of the following after the Minister:

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!
To God be glory forever!

Next, the Minister leads the congregation in harmonizing the following:

Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

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 Gospels

Mark 13:1-8

Pew Bible, p. 925

Response

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us:

Thanks be to God.

BELL ANTHEM

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

arr. Lloyd Larson

MESSAGE

"Reversals That Move Us Forward"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Nada Te Turbe / Nothing Can Trouble

Jacques Berthier

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten
those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.

Nada te turbe, nada t'espante.
Quien a Dios tiene nada le falta.
Nada te turbe, nada t'espante.
Solo Dios basta.

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayer of the Day

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

Opportunities to Give and Gather

AFFIRMING OUR STEWARDSHIP / CONSECRATING OUR COMMITMENTS

***STEWARDSHIP HYMN** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

R. L. Edwards

Tune: HYFRYDOL

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.

***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.

***BENEDICTION**

Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;
From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.
Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span,
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.
People: Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

Marche Triomphale

Théodore Dubois

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New Members Class Forming

If you would like to know more about First Congregational Church, an **Inquirers Class** is forming. Please contact the Pastor, if you're interested in participating.

WiFi Connection

first_church_guest | passcode: firstguest

Assistive Listening Systems Available

If you have an in-ear listening device connected to your mobile phone, such as hearing aids and stage monitors, you can listen to what's going on in the sanctuary without wearing a separate hearing device. Simply download the **LISTEN WiFi App** from the App Store or the Google Play Store and connect to the special wifi connection **fccwg1** + password "**firstchurch**". *If you need help connecting, please see one of A/V Techs at the table in the southeast corner of the sanctuary.*

Headsets connected to our historic listening system are also available from the Narthex table.

Connecting Remotely to Worship

Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube. Go to bit.ly/FCCWG-YT

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 library banner) and to the left of the Narthex just before the double doors.

How to Donate (and Pledge!) 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
- Scan the QR code.



Fresh Pecans Have Arrived!

There are two cases (48 bags) of the fresh mammoth pecans in Debbie's office. Get those recipes together! They will once again be \$15 per bag. If you would like to reserve any, please either call or **email Debbie** at admin@firstchurchwg.org. We will get them ready for pickup after the 17th.

Adult Education: Sabbatical Report – Next Sunday!

On November 24, Pastor Dave Denoon will offer a presentation based on some of the research he did during his sabbatical (and continues to do). "**The Rise and Fall of East Canada**" – Pastor Dave's version of the story of Webster Groves Urban Renewal Plan, 1960-1974 – will be offered in the Sanctuary (beverages welcome with sealed cups from Coffee Fellowship) and live-streamed on YouTube, starting at 11:20am.

Hanging of the Greens

It's time to get ready for our annual Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, December 8th. The sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex, today through December 1st. We will need:

Wreath Bearers • Candle Bearers • Creche Bearers • Poinsettia Bearers

Don't miss being a part of our beautiful service to prepare our Sanctuary for Christmas.

Annual Christmas Tree Decorating Party – Sunday, December 1 at 11:30 AM

We will once again gather in the Jubilee Garden to decorate our live Christmas tree. We do have some outdoor ornaments but would love it if people could bring a bird seed ornament. We also welcome popcorn roping, but please no Cheerios. Neither the birds or the squirrels will eat them!

Maybe This Is the Year for You to Experience Yankee Swap?

Mike Lenard has again invited us to his home at 1467 Heritage Valley Drive, High Ridge, for a Yankee Swap on Sunday, December 1st. The party starts at 1:00PM with the meal, followed by the gift exchange. The party ends at 5:00PM (before dark).

Here Is the Drill:

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

Scout Troop Rummage Sale – December 7, from 8 AM until noon

If the weather is decent, they'll set up the sale on the parking lot; and if the weather is bad, they'll have the sale in the Dickens Room. If you wish to donate anything for the scout sale, there is a box in the Narthex. Items will be collected through Monday, November 25. Needed: Toys, Furniture, Clothes, Good-condition items. ***(Please NO electronics, Hygiene items, weapons or items that use gas.)***

November Meal-a-Month Shopping List

Canned Salmon or Tuna (in water) • Canned Spinach (no salt)
Applesauce (in plastic, no sugar added)
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Soap • Deodorant • Toilet Paper

November Birthdays

Lynda Morrison – November 2

Keith Moore – November 5

Andrea Welnick – November 9

Nina Thompson – November 12

Joseph Weyhrich – November 13

Marilyn Barton – November 15

Carolyn Woodsmall – November 18

Jennifer Monaco – November 19

Chris von Weise – November 25

Kristy Barton – November 27

Pat Schutte – November 27

Joan Musbach – November 30

What's Going on at First Church

Sunday, November 17

Consecration Sunday

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM WORSHIP

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee - Memorial Hall

Monday, November 18

7:00PM Scout Troops 301 – Dickens Room

7:00PM Executive Ministry – Zoom

Tuesday, November 19

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

Wednesday, November 20

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, November 21

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

Sunday, November 24

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM WORSHIP

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee - Memorial Hall

11:20AM Adult Ed: "The Rise & Fall of East Canada" – Sanctuary



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Contact Information

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Weekend & Events Custodians –
Onyeka Igboanuzue

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
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
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Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
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THE VISION of First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ, is to be a dynamic Christian community expressing God's love, hope, joy, and peace for all people.

OUR MISSION is to provide:

- Worship that praises God
 - ◇ Shows commitment to the teachings of Jesus
 - ◇ Celebrates the Holy Spirit in ways that express the diversity of our experiences
 - ◇ Encourages spiritual growth and commitment
- Educational activities that promote faith and intellectual growth for children and for adults.
- Advocacy and care for those in need in our community and throughout the world.
- Community that seeks justice, loves kindness, and walks humbly.
- Hope, love, and encouragement to all who seek our support.
- Grace and forgiveness for ourselves and all who seek the ministries we share in worship, music, and fellowship with others on life's journey.

Follow us on

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@FirstChurchWG

Instagram

@webstergroves_firstchurch

YouTube

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

