



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or  
where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

[www.fcindy.org](http://www.fcindy.org)  
317.257.5397

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

@FirstCongregationalUCCLndy

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Welcome to your spiritual home! We celebrate being a Just Peace making, Green for care of Creation, WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health church with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQAAI+ community since 1994.**

We welcome first time guests and include **all ages** in our worship service. We believe we are called by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world. We are a place to **belong**, a place to **heal** and a place to **love**. **At First Congregational we recognize God as a loving, creating, all-encompassing Spirit who is not limited by usual human boundaries. Therefore, we practice the use of inclusive, expansive, and non-gendered language when speaking of and to God.**

**Pastoral Care:** Pastor Sarah may be reached at  
(386)478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

**We celebrate our church staff:**

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund  
Pastoral Care Associate, Pastor Carol Sowle  
Office Administrator, Shannon Abbott  
Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker  
Student Pastor, Cassidy Hall

**We celebrate our church leadership:**

Alice Rutherford, Moderator  
Larry Eckel, Vice Moderator  
Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey, Clerk  
Jim Lootens, Treasurer  
Cheryl Dillenback, Financial Secretary

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Bob Cook (handbells), Linda Lupton (ASL), Rev. Elizabeth Price & Sheran Sumo (readers), Mayflower Quartette, Jesse Wittman (string bass), Mike Kessler (percussion)

**DECEMBER 20, 2020    FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**11:00 A.M.**

**WE GATHER**

GATHERING MUSIC

HANDBELL INTROIT            O Come, O Come Emmanuel

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

CANDLE LIGHTING

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

I Believe in the Light

Meagan Johnson  
& Mayflower Quartette

OPENING SONG #116    O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*NCH*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

**WE PROCLAIM**

MUSIC FOR ALL AGES

This Little Light of Mine

Linda Lupton  
& Alice Rutherford

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7  
John 1:1-18

Rev. Elizabeth Price  
& Sheran Sumo

SERMON

Advent of Peace

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTERLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Baker

## WE RESPOND

TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Stillness

Meagan Johnson

JOYS and CONCERNS

*We invite those who desire to share a joy or concern.*

PASTORAL PRAYER and PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## WE GO

CLOSING HYMN #154

Go Tell It on the Mountain

*NCH*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

I Believe in God

Miller

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Baker

*Following worship, everyone is invited for Coffee Hour via Zoom.*

## CALLS to SERVE

*“Here am I; send me!” Isaiah 6:8*

**TODAY! Coffee Hour, immediately after worship on Zoom**

**TODAY! Outdoor Vespers, 4:30-5:00pm** – Each Sunday afternoon, you can join us on the church patio for a quiet time to be together, ponder scripture, and share our joys and concerns. Bring a chair and face mask as we spend some precious time with one another, and practice our love by keeping distant and wearing face coverings. Note: *Outdoor vespers will not be held if the temperature is below 50, it is raining, OR the winds are above 20 mph.*

**Soul Care with Pastor Sarah: Tuesdays, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.** - Join us for our weekly “Soul-Care with Pastor Sarah” a time for church members to check-in and to pray together. *Please note this is a different Zoom link from others used by FC:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84830474505?pwd=Ny9oeE84a0lpcTUrWHU2dUhfVUZZQT09>

**Zoom Vespers Service - Tuesdays, 7:00-7:30 p.m.** - With lessening daylight and colder weather, we are exploring ways to continue the fellowship we have shared the past few months. On Tuesdays, we will meet at 7 pm for a half hour on Zoom, to be together virtually.

**Wellness Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. (Zoom)** – On Wednesdays in December, join us as we *draw near* to God, as we nurture ways we can connect with one another, connect with God, and connect within ourselves in body, mind, and spirit. This Zoom will be recorded and posted on the FC Facebook page and website.

**Spiritual Support Group** – No Spiritual Support Group this Thursday due to the Christmas holiday. Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey will be available by phone or email for support.

**The Mission of the Month for December: The Christmas Fund** - United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you! For more information, go to: <https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home>. To contribute to this effort, write a check to First Congregational, and designate Christmas Fund in the Memo line, or go to <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>.

**Publications** - Bulletins, Sermons, Epistles, and Colony are all available on our website: [www.fcindy.org](http://www.fcindy.org)

**Continue Your Support of First Congregational UCC** - Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

**FC Emergency Fund** - The FC Emergency Fund is available to support housing, food, and medical needs for any of our church family who find themselves unemployed or underemployed due to Covid-19 impacts. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org) or cell (386) 478-9012. To make a donation, send a check to the church with "emergency fund" on the memo or make a donation on the church website.

**National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255) (press 1 for veterans, 2 for Spanish)

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** Information HelpLine provides information and referral services. 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) and [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).

**The Trevor Project hotline** offers support for LGBTQIA+ youth and families struggling with mental health challenges at 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) and [www.theTrevorProject.org](http://www.theTrevorProject.org)

### **Holiday Zoom Worship & Fellowship Schedule:**

- Dec 24, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Worship (FC Zoom)
- Dec 24, 8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Zoom Fellowship
- Dec 25, 3:00 p.m. – Christmas Day Zoom Gathering

### **This Week at First Congregational**

Sunday, Dec 20	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Dec 20	11:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent/Communion Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Dec 20	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Dec 22	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care w/ Pastor Sarah
Tuesday, Dec 22	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Wednesday, Dec 23	10:30 a.m.	Wellness Wednesday
Thursday, Dec 24	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Thursday, Dec 24	8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Zoom Fellowship
Friday, Dec 25	3:00 p.m.	Christmas Day Zoom Gathering
Sunday, Dec 27	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Dec 27	11:00 a.m.	First Sunday of Christmas Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Dec 27	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour

**\*All events are on Zoom unless indicated otherwise.**

## How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09> Meeting ID: 926 449 4206 Password: 7171

If you click on the URL, you should not need to enter in the Meeting ID and Password.

To dial in by phone: +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

## Today's Scripture

### Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness are seeing a brilliant light— upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows light is shining!

<sup>3</sup> God, you have made the nation greater—you have brought them abundant joy! They celebrate in your presence as with the harvest celebrations, or as warriors celebrate when dividing spoils.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke that burdened them, the weight on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressors—you have shattered it, as you did at the defeat of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak that was dragged through blood, is now used as fuel for the fire. 6 For a child is born to us, an heir is given us, upon whose shoulders dominion will rest.

This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end, with David's throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness, now and forever. The zeal of YHWH Omnipotent will accomplish it!"

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 745-746). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.



## **John 1:1-18**

IN THE BEGINNING there was the Word;  
the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> The Word was present to God from the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being.

<sup>4</sup> In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light—

<sup>5</sup> a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

<sup>6</sup> Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God,

<sup>7</sup> who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe.

<sup>8</sup> He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind.

<sup>9</sup> The Word was coming into the world—

<sup>10</sup> was in the world—and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it.

<sup>11</sup> Though the Word came to its own realm,  
the Word's own people didn't accept it.

<sup>12</sup> Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name,  
were empowered to become children of God—

<sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh  
nor human will—but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us;  
we saw the Word's glory—the favor and position a parent gives an only child—filled with grace, filled with truth.

<sup>15</sup> John testified by proclaiming, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.' "


<sup>16</sup> Of this One's fullness we've all had a share—gift on top of gift.

<sup>17</sup> For while the Law was given through Moses,  
the Gift—and the Truth—came through Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; it is the Only Begotten,  
ever at Abba's side, who has revealed God to us.

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2376-2377). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.



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