



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

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: While Pastor Sarah is on vacation from 12/25 – 1/3, Pastor Carol Sowle may be reached at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com
After 1/3, Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or 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

DECEMBER 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00 P.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 Sun

Meagan Johnson
& Mayflower Quartette

OPENING SONG # 132

Joy to the World

NCH

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 52:7-10

Luke 2:1-20

LESSONS and CAROLS

#133 O Little Town of Bethlehem

#124 Away in a Manger

#144 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#148 What Child Is This

#135 O Come, All You Faithful

INTERLUDE

What Child Is This

arr. Baker

WE RESPOND

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Jimmy, Aniseh, & James Hodges

WE GO

CLOSING HYMN # 134

Silent Night

NCH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Baker

*Following worship, everyone is invited for
a special Christmas Eve fellowship time via Zoom.*

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Musicians: Bob Cook, handbells

Mayflower Quartette

Jesse Wittman, string bass

Mike Kessler, percussion

Participants: Jimmy, Aniseh, & James Hodges

Readers: Steve & Gini Coomer

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracy

Faye Pudlo

Nathan Howard

Sue Chapman

Clark Collier

Wendy Baldwin

Today's Scriptures

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How welcome upon the mountains
are the feet of one who brings good news—
who announces peace,
and brings news of happy things,
and proclaims deliverance,
saying to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

⁸ Listen! Those who keep watch raise a cry,
together they shout for joy—
for they see with their own eyes
YHWH’s restoration of Zion!

⁹ Break out together in song,
O ruins of Jerusalem!
For YHWH comforts the people,
and redeems Jerusalem.

¹⁰ YHWH bares a holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
all the ends of the earth will behold
the salvation of our God!

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 850-851). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

Luke 2:1-20

¹ In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. ² This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. ⁴ And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David”—Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; ⁵ he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her delivery. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn. ⁸ There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flock. ⁹ The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid. ¹⁰ The angel said to them, “You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you—news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people. ¹¹ Today in David’s city, a savior—the Messiah—has been born to you. ¹² Let this be a sign to you: you’ll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in high heaven! And on earth, peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.” ¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see this event that God has made known to us.” ¹⁶ They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; ¹⁷ once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child. ¹⁸ All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds. ¹⁹ Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2313-2314). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

You are not alone. Please reach out for help if you or a loved one is in need of emotional support:

- **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.
- **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



Illustration by Lara Hawthorne