



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

@FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

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.

We celebrate our church staff:

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Pastoral Care Associate, Pastor Carol Sowle

External Communications Manager/Office Admin, Cassidy Hall

Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker

Media Technician, David Clark and Ben James

We celebrate our church leadership:

Senior Councilors: *Alice Rutherford, Steve Coomer, Larry Eckel

Clerk: Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

Treasurer: Jim Lootens

Financial Secretary: Cheryl Dillenback

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Mayflower Quartette

Steve and Gini Coomer, Trumpet and Piano

Today's Liturgists: Wendy Baldwin, Sue Chapman, Steve Coomer, Gini Coomer, Bill Gillette, Rev. Worth Hartman, Aurelia Hoft-March, Christy James, and Linda Lupton

Christmas Eve Service at FC Indy

Be Encouraged: God is With Us



December 24, 2021

7:00 P.M.

PRELUDE

Gesu Bambino

INTROIT

Water

Mayflower Quartette

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

CANDLE LIGHTING INTROIT

Mayflower Quartette

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Bill Gillette

OPENING SONG #132

Joy to the World!

New Century Hymnal

MOMENT OF PEACE

MEDITATION

All Earth Is Waiting

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1-5

Wendy Baldwin

Psalm 97:10-12

Rev.Worth Hartman

Titus 3:4-7

Aurelia Hoft-March

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Quartette

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MONTAGE

LESSONS AND CAROLS (Luke 2:1-20)

Luke 2:1-5

Sue Chapman

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register, 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; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant.

#133 (vs. 1,4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

New Century Hymnal

Luke 2:6-7

Linda Lupton

While they were there, the time came for her delivery. 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.

#124 (vs. 1,3)

Away In a Manger

New Century Hymnal

Luke 2:8-14

Steve Coomer

There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flock. The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid. 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. Today in David's city, a savior-the messiah-has been born to you. Let this be a sign to you: you'll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in high heaven! And on earth, peace to those on whom God's favor rests."

#144 (vs. 1,3)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

New Century Hymnal

Luke 2:15-18

Gini Coomer

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." They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; Once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child. All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds.

#148 (vs. 1,3)

What Child Is This?

New Century Hymnal

Luke 2:19-20

Christy James

Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

#135 (vs.1,3,4)

O Come, All You Faithful

New Century Hymnal

SERMON

Be Encouraged: God of Jesus Christ is With Us

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

WE RESPOND

INTERLUDE

Winter's Retreat

Baker, Oprisko

CHRISTMAS PRAYER (from Enfleshed)

Holy One, make us bold like Mary, the mother of God. Grow in us the fiercest spirit of love: love that protects, listens, takes risks, and confronts evil that teaches us to turn our backs on some for the profit of others. Lure us in the direction of salvation and help us to believe, with your help, we can manifest a better way. Amen

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (from UCC Book of Worship)

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Mayflower Quartette

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

What Child is This?

arr. Baker

WE GO

CLOSING SONG #134

Silent Night, Holy Night

New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Rejoice!

Mayflower Quartette

POSTLUDE

O Holy Night

Adam, arr. Warbinton

CALLS to SERVE

"Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8

Spiritual Support Group, Thursdays at 5:00pm (Zoom) – This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well-being. Contact Pat Larracey at plainandfancy1963@att.net, or 317-625-6801, or Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

Publications - Bulletins, Sermons, Epistles, and Colony are all available on our website: www.fcindy.org

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

Members In Need Fund - The Members In Need Fund is available to support financial needs for any of our church family who find themselves in need. All requests for financial support will be confidential and your privacy will be honored and respected. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email pastorsarah@fcindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.

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

How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

Please contact our office admin to join Zoom Gatherings: cassidy@fcindy.org

GIVING

We seek to love and to share our joy.

We offer care, give thanks and praise, when Christ is present among us all. We know the world's a mission field, needing forgiveness, justice and hope.

Our Current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Open and Affirming Covenant. We have been an Open and Affirming Church since 1994. Our current outreach recipients: Indiana Youth Group, Damien Center, and Trinity Haven



Today's Scripture

(Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition).

Isaiah 61:1-5, Psalm 97:10-12, Titus 3:4-7,

Isaiah 61:1-5

“The Spirit of Exalted YHWH is upon me,
for YHWH has anointed me:
God has sent me to bring good news to those who
are poor;
to heal broken hearts;
to proclaim release to those held captive
and liberation to those in prison;
to announce a year of favor from YHWH,
and the day of God’s vindication;
to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to give them a wreath of flowers instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of tears,
a cloak of praise instead of despair.
They will be known as trees of integrity,
planted by YHWH to display God’s glory. They will restore the
ancient ruins,
and rebuild sites long devastated;
they will repair the ruined cities,
neglected for generations. Strangers will tend your flocks;
foreigners will till your fields and dress your
vineyards...”

Psalm 97:10-12

YHWH, you love those who hate evil; preserve the lives of your faithful ones

and deliver them from the hands of the wicked.

Light dawns for the just, and joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in YHWH, you just, and give praise to God's holy Name!

Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, we were saved, not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of God's own mercy. We were saved through the baptism of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit God lavished on us through Jesus Christ, our Savior, that we might be justified through grace and become heirs to the hope of eternal life.



@fc_indy



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***Thank you for joining us in the celebration
of giving and receiving the love of Christ***

We are grateful for your generosity as you consider your end of year gifts in supporting the ministry of First Congregational United Church of Christ

Ways to Give:

- Checks can be mailed to the church at 7171 N. Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, IN 46240
- You can give online at **fcindy.org/online-giving**