



# 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)  
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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 hybrid worship service. We invite guests to fill out a visitor card found in the pew holder. Whether you choose to join us online or in-person, we believe we are called together 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.**

**\*Disclaimer:** Today's worship service is being live-streamed. While the focus will be on the worship leaders, anything you say or do may be on film. If you have any questions or need to ensure you are not on camera for your safety or other reasons, please speak with our leadership.

**A Message from our Church Council regarding COVID:** While we navigate the continuing pandemic, we request that you remain up to date with your vaccinations. Mask as needed. Please stay home if you feel unwell.

**–Church Council resolution of November 16th, 2022**

**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 (she/her)

Pastoral Care Associate, Pastor Carol Sowle (she/her)

External Communications Manager/Office Admin, Cassidy Hall (she/her)

Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker (he/him)

Media Technician, Ben James (he/him)

**We celebrate our church leadership:**

Senior Councilors: \*Steve Coomer, Judy Fletcher, and Larry Eckel

Clerk: Janet Selby

Treasurer: Jim Lootens

Financial Secretary: Sue Chapman

Volunteer Building Manager, Wendy Baldwin

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Mayflower Singers

Jesse Wittman, String Bass

Mike Kessler, Percussion

Scott Semester, Worship Song Leader

Readers, Cristy James and Cassidy Hall

Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund



*reflecting the sacred*

Advent/Christmas 2022

December 25, 2022

11:00 A.M.

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

What Child is This

arr. Baker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## REFLECTING THE SACRED

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

We pray for comfort this day  
**We pray for comfort this day.**

We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.  
**We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.**

We open to see each thing that is born  
**We open to see each thing that is born**

as a gift of holy presence.  
**as a gift of holy presence.**

This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,  
**This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,**

lighting the way to calm.  
**lighting the way to calm.**

OPENING HYMN #165

Love Came Down at Christmas

*New Century  
Hymnal*

## REFRACTING THE SACRED

### INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING                      Isaiah 52: 7-10                      Cristy James

MUSICAL REFLECTION              O Come, O Come Emmanuel

SECOND READING                      John 1: 1-14                      Cassidy Hall

SERMON                                  Surprisingly Sacred              Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

## REFILLING THE SACRED

CHRISTMAS INTERLUDE              Winter's Retreat                      Baker, Oprisko

### CHRISTMAS PRAYER

**Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise.**

### 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

## REFRAMING THE SACRED

ANNOINTED TO SURPRINGLY SACRED

CLOSING SONG #154      Go Tell It on the Mountain      *New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION      Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

POSTLUDE      O Come, All Ye Faithful      arr. Baker

### 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 Pastor Sarah at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org), or 386-478-9012.

**Publications:** Bulletins, Sermons, Epistles, and Colony are all available on our website FCIndy.org

**How to Access our Zoom Gatherings** Please contact our office admin to join Zoom Gatherings: [cassidy@fcindy.org](mailto:cassidy@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/>

**Note:** Cash donations of \$1.00 or less are counted as donations to the current Covenant Outreach. Cash of \$5.00 or more should be put in pew envelopes with a designation of Pledge/Contribution, Covenant Outreach, or the specific charity. Unless designated, cash over \$5.00 will go to the church budget.

**The 988 Lifeline:** 988 is now active across the United States. This new, shorter phone number will make it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services. (Please note, the previous 1-800-273-TALK (8255) number will continue to function indefinitely.) Click below to learn more about 988.

**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)

## A Note on our Current Covenant Outreach Giving

Our Current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Open and Affirming Covenant (September – December) Our current outreach recipients are Indiana Youth Group, Trinity Haven, and the Damien Center.



## THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

Sunday, December 25	NO ADULT ED	NO Adult Ed
Sunday, December 25	11:00 AM	ONLINE ONLY: Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB)

## Today's Scripture

### **Isaiah 52: 7-10**

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

### **John 1: 1-14**

#### **IN THE BEGINNING**

there was the Word;  
the Word was in God’s presence,  
and the Word was God. The Word was present to God  
from the beginning. Through the Word  
all things came into being,  
and apart from the Word  
nothing came into being  
that has come into being. In the Word was life,  
and that life was humanity’s light—a Light that shines in the darkness,  
a Light that the darkness has never overtaken. Then came one named John, sent as an envoy  
from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony  
everyone might believe. He himself wasn’t the Light; he only came to testify about the  
Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind. The Word was coming into the world—  
was in the world—  
and though the world  
was made through the Word,  
the world didn’t recognize it.



Though the Word came to its own realm,  
the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the Word,  
who believed in that Name,  
were empowered to become children of God—children born not of natural descent,  
nor urge of flesh  
nor human will—  
but born of God. 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.

**A Word of God that is still speaking, thanks be to God.**

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



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