



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 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.

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)

Just Peace Intern, Noah Giddings (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

Building Manager, Wendy Baldwin

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Mayflower Singers

Jesse Wittman, String Bass

Mike Kessler, Percussion

Scott Semester, Worship Song Leader

Liturgist, Cindy Cox

Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund

January 8, 2023

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

INTROIT

I Was Glad

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God hovered over the waters and brought forth life.

Delighting in earth's creatures and creations, God called these wonders "good!"

Though greed and cruelty seeped in,
bringing violence and destruction into life's abundance,
still, God persists in the work of love.

Stirring the waters again and again,
God points us back to our divine beginnings
while also ushering us towards new forms of life.

Let us remember anew with joy God's proclamations over creation:

The earth and all its creatures are beloved.

All life is Sacred.

Each person, birthed from the Divine.

Thanks be to God, who calls us back to ourselves –
beloved and good and free to pursue life together.

SONG #35

No Matter

Sing! Prayer and Praise

THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

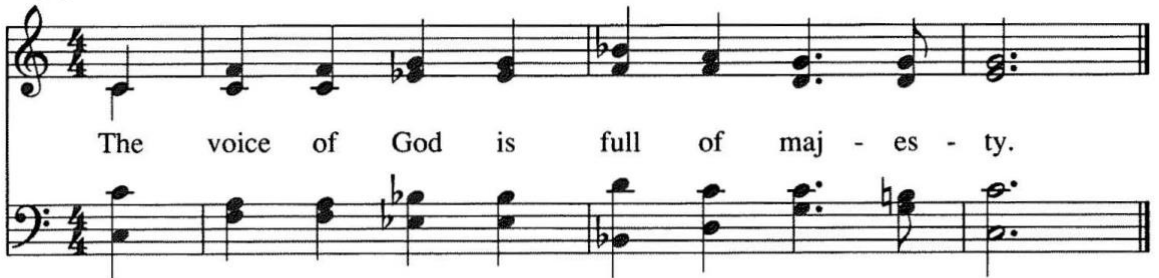
People: And also with you.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 29

Response

Antiphon: David Hurd, 1994



The voice of God is full of maj - es - ty.

R

¹Ascribe to God, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to God glory and strength.

²Ascribe to God the glory of God's
name;
worship God in holy splendor.

³The voice of God is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders, God,
over mighty waters.

⁴The voice of God is powerful;
the voice of God is full of majesty.

R

⁵The voice of God breaks the cedars;
God breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶God makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of God flashes forth
in flames of fire.

⁸The voice of God shakes the
wilderness;
God shakes the wilderness of
Kadesh. *R*

⁹The voice of God causes the oaks to
whirl, and strips the forest bare;
and in God's temple all say,
"Glory!"

¹⁰God sits enthroned over the flood;
God sits enthroned as ruler forever.

¹¹May God give strength to the people!
May God bless the people with
peace! *R*

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:13-17

Cindy Cox

RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

SERMON

Possibilities Unfolding

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

SONG #286

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

LANCASHIRE

DOXOLOGY

To you O God we here do raise
our song and gifts of thankful praise.
The Christmas Child protect from harm,
and keep all children safe and warm.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER (adapted from enfleshed)

Mysterious One, through the ordinary elements of the earth, we are reminded that your grace is woven into our common life. The same waters that revive our bodies and the earth's, invite, too, the renewal of our souls. May we not take for granted the sources of our life but be good stewards of these gifts that restore. 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.

RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

CLOSING SONG #282

Every Time I Feel The Spirit

New Century Hymnal

WE GO

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

RESPONSE

Glory! Glory! Glory!

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

How Great Thou Art

CALLS to SERVE

“Here am I; send me!” Isaiah 6:8

New Member Sunday is January 29th! Thinking about making First Congregational your spiritual home? We will welcome new members Sunday, January 29 during worship. Contact Pastor Sarah if you feel God calling you to join our mission and ministry to build a more just and loving world for all. Email Pastor Sarah at PastorSarah@fcindy.org

The Annual Meeting! Sunday, January 29th at 1:00 PM! All are welcome to join our Annual Meeting to learn about FC Indy over the past year.

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, 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

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.

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

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, January 8	10:00 AM	Adult Ed (In-Person Only)
Sunday, January 8	11:00 AM	Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Tuesday, January 10	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting
Wednesday, January 11	3:00 PM	WISE Team Meeting
Wednesday, January 11	7:00 PM	Church Council
Thursday, January 12	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (ZOOM)

Today's Scripture

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, "I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!"

But Jesus replied, "Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God's justice." So John reluctantly agreed.

Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests."

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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