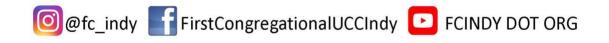


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcome to your Spiritual Home!

We celebrate being a Just Peace making, Green for care of Creation, and WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health church, with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQAAI+ community.

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.

We welcome all who worship with us today and include **all ages** in our hybrid worship service. We invite guests and members to fill out a Welcome/Prayer card found in the pew holder, and put it in the offering plate. Children are invited to play quietly in the "prayground" at the front of the church, or use a "Quiet Bag" found in the Narthex.

***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 please speak with our minister.

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

In-Person Office Hours: Cassidy (church admin) and Pastor Sarah are in office Thursdays from 9am-12.

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**

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Mayflower Singers Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director Ben James (Media Technician) Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader Jesse Wittman, String Bass Mike Kessler, Percussion Cristy James, Liturgist Noah Giddings (he/him), Just Peace Intern Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund (she/her), Pastor

April 16, 2023

Please speak the bold-printed words in unison. Asterisk () indicates those who choose to may stand in body/spirit.* 11:00 AM

WE GATHER

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

PRELUDE	Gather Us In	Haugen, arr. Baker
INTROIT	Down to the River to Pray	Mayflower Singers
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

CALL TO WORSHIP (from enfleshed) Peace be with you! And also with you! The Holy Spirit lives within you. She also lives within you. Let us gather in the presence of the Redeemer, the Beloved who sets forth the path of Life.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #84

This Is the Day

New Century Hymnal

Noah Giddings

*THE PEACE One: Peace be with you. People: And also with you.

RESPONSE PSALM 16

Psalm 16



Protect me, O god, for in you I take refuge.

I say to God, "You are my God; I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows. ${\mathcal R}$

I keep God always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. ${\cal R}$

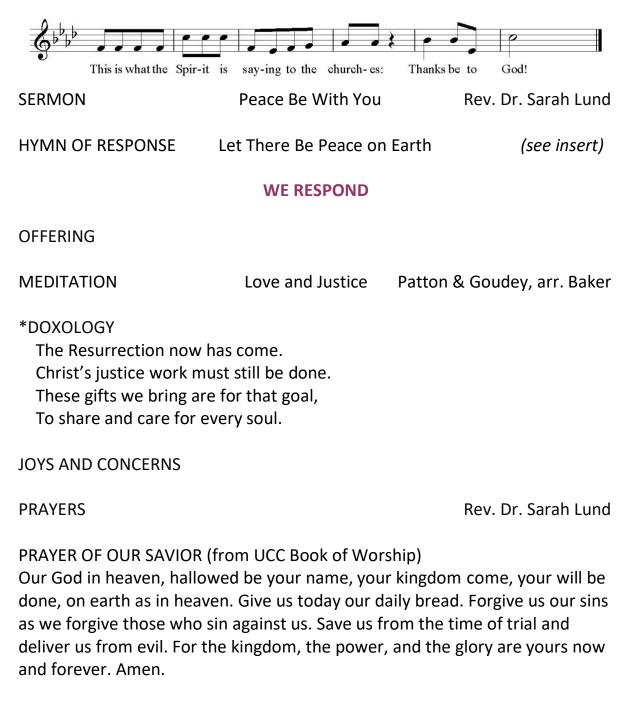
WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

Cristy James

RESPONSE #764



WE GO

SONG OF SENDIN	IG #193	Peace	Sing! Prayer and Praise
*BENEDICTION			Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
RESPONSE	Peace I Leave with	n You, My Friends	Mayflower Singers
POSTLUDE	Carı	ry the Light	Moylan

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

BUZZ TODAY, April 16 After Worship! Noah, our Just Peace Intern will present a summary of his semester with First Congregational. We will start with a pitch-in lunch after church. Noah will present a summary of his tie with us including a discussion on Peace. Bring a favorite quote to share if you like.

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM – Several options are available on Sundays before worship. Join our Adult Ed group for thoughtful study and discussion (upstairs at church). Or go to choir practice to rehearse for that morning's singing; all skill levels welcome!

The Outreach and Service Board is encouraging members to financially support community organizations that align with our churches' just peacemaking covenant. Consider a contribution to the Peace Learning Center (PLC). The PLC was created in 1997 by a team of people that included Tim Nation, the PLC's current Executive Director, to reduce violence and increase kindness in our community. Learn more about the Peace Learning Center at their website: **peacelearningcenter.org**

Food Donations to Northside Pantry – Help those with hunger insecurity by bringing donations of canned or boxed food, and place in the baskets in the Narthex.

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.

Thank You for Your Financial Gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant, and the recipients are Exodus Refugee, Peace Learning Center, Family Promise, and Faith in Indiana. Gifts of single dollars, or those designed to Covenant Outreach, are divided

evenly to these groups, unless otherwise specified. Also, your pledge or undesignated gifts are greatly appreciated to support the mission and ministries funded by First Congregational's operating budget. You can place gifts in the offering plate, mail a check to the church, or give online at <u>www.fcindy.org</u>

Mental Health Support:

The 988 Lifeline: 988 is now active across the United States. (call or text) **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI.ORG)**: information and referral services: 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) 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**

IIIIS WEEK AT FC INDI.				
Tuesday, April 18	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)		
Tuesday, April 18	2:00 PM	Circle Book Club		
Tuesday, April 18	3:30 PM	Worship and Faith Meeting		
Wednesday, April 19	7:00 PM	Church Council		
Thursday, April 20	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch		
Thursday, April 20	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)		
Sunday, April 23	10:00 AM	Adult Education		
Sunday, April 23	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB) –		
		Pastor Carol Preaches!		

THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

Today's Scripture

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"—was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!" Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound." On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you." Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!" Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!"

Jesus then said,

"You've become a believer

because you saw me.

Blessed are those who have not seen

and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus' Name.

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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