



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG

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 LGBTQAAIL+ 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 “pryground” 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 is out of town Dec. 25-Jan 5, you can contact Rev. Elizabeth Price at eprice235@gmail.com or 317-727-0940

In-Person Office Hours: Cassidy (admin) is in office 9-12 on Thursday, meeting with Pastor Sarah by appointment.

Out of concern for community health, we request that you remain up to date with your vaccinations. Mask as needed. Please stay home if you feel unwell.

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Rev. Elizabeth Price (she/her), Preacher
Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader
Mayflower Singers
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician
Gini Coomer, Liturgists

December 31, 2023

11:00 AM

*Please speak the **bold**-printed words in unison.*

Asterisk () indicates those who choose to may stand in body/spirit.*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

The First Noël

Music for gathering

INTROIT

This, This, the Angels Sing

Mayflower Singers

Entering Into the Sacred

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Elizabeth Price

*SONG OF PRAISE #126 Angels, from the Realms of Glory *New Century Hymnal*

*SHARING THE PEACE

Rev. Elizabeth Price

One: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

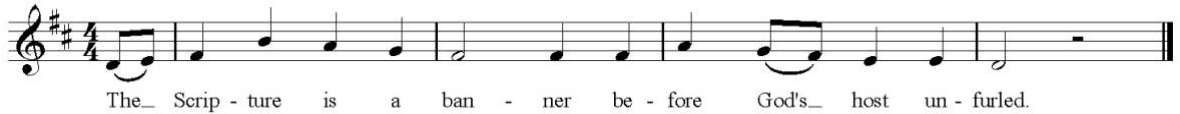
SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:22-40

Gini Coomer

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



MESSAGE

A Clear Vision for a Life Well Lived

Rev. Elizabeth Price

*SONG OF REFLECTION #144 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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 Singers

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

**The Christmas Child has now come near.
We share our gifts with peace-filled cheer.
This Christmastide brings newfound love
that comes to us from God above.**

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

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

*BENEDICTION
Blessing

BLESSING SONG Raise, Raise the Song on High Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Sing We Now of Christmas
Music for Sending Forth

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

Youth Group will Resume in the New Year: Join the FC Indy Youth Group, beginning in January 12, from 6:30-8:30PM. We will have pizza and games and be a safe space for middle school and high school students.

Cards to Our Church Family – Please sign the cards on our “card stand”, for those celebrating birthdays, or in need of prayers.

2023 Annual Report deadline for boards, committees, and teams is January 10. Please email Annual Reports to Cassidy at cassidy@fcindy.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.

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!

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. ***This group will begin meeting only on the first Thursday of each month, beginning on December 7th.



Thank You for Your Financial Gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant which includes supporting the following organizations: Faith in Indiana, Peace Learning Center, Exodus Refugee Immigration and Family Promise.



**EXODUS
REFUGEE**
The life ahead.



**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 www.fcindy.org

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

THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

Tuesday, January 2	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, January 2	All Day	Pastor Sarah Day of Prayer
Wednesday, January 3	7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, January 4	5:00 PM	Monthly Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, January 7	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, January 7	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, January 7	12:15-12:45 PM	Family Room Playdate after Worship

Today's Scripture

Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the Law of Moses, the couple took Jesus up to Jerusalem and presented him to God. For it's written in the Law of our God, "Every firstborn heir is to be consecrated to God." They likewise came to offer in sacrifice "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accord with the dictate of the Law of our God. Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. He was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. She had revealed to Simeon that he wouldn't see death until he had seen the Messiah of God. Prompted by her, Simeon came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child to perform the customary rituals of the Law, he took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Now, O God, you can dismiss your servant in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the peoples to see— a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel."

As the child's mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, "This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. And a sword will pierce your heart as well." There was a woman named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was also a prophet. She had lived a long life, seven years with her husband, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple, worshiping day and night, fasting and praying. Coming up at that moment, she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who anticipated the deliverance of Jerusalem. When the couple had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the Law of God, they returned to Galilee and their own town of Nazareth. The child grew in size and strength. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with him.

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



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