



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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



@fc_indy



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 LGBTQAAI+ community.

Whether you 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, so we use 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 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 Playground at the front of the church or use a "Quiet Bag" found in the Narthex.

***Disclaimer:** Our worship services are 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.

Accessibility: Please see an usher if you'd like a listening device. We also have a variety of fidgets in the Playground to support neurodiversity. Don't hesitate to let an usher know if there's anything else you need!

Pastoral Care: You may reach out to Pastor Sarah for pastoral care, including home visits, hospital visits, home communion, prayer, and conversation. You may reach her by text or phone at (386) 478-9012 or by email at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

In-Person Office Hours: Scott (church admin) works in the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You may contact him at scott@fcindy.org.

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.

Masks can be found in the narthex.

April 19, 2026

11:00 AM

We celebrate today's worship leaders:

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Scanlan (she/her), Preacher
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Leader
Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director and Video Designer
Gracelynn Norgaard (she/her), Family Faith Ministry Leader
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader
Mayflower Singers
Grady Locke, String Bass
Art Reiner, Percussion
Linda Lupton (she/her), Liturgist

*Please speak **bold** words aloud. Stand as you are able for asterisked (*) songs.*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *Last Uns Erfreuen* Trad., arr. D. Witkowski
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Scott Semester
INTROIT: *New Life* Mayflower Singers
CALL TO WORSHIP Scott Semester

One: God of Love, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

**All: When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established; what
are human beings that you are mindful of us, mortals that
you care for us?**

One: Yet you have made us a little lower than God and
crowned us with glory and honor. You call us to be stewards
over the works of your hands; you entrust the wellbeing of all to
our care.

**All: God of Love, how majestic is your name in all the
earth!**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Gracelynn Norgaard

*SONG OF GATHERING: *Draw the Circle Wide*

Sing! Prayer & Praise #123

SHARING THE PEACE

Scott Semester

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

UNISON PRAYER

Scott Semester

God of the universe, we sometimes feel small in the face of that which is so far beyond our understanding, and there is so much outside of our control. We wonder: How do our lives matter? We wonder: What does it all mean? We wonder: Why do we bother doing anything at all when our efforts seem insignificant? God of Love, give us wisdom to discern holy creativity in our lives. Give us the courage to show up authentically here, right now. We embrace this present moment as shaping the meaning of our lives. God, we thank you for meeting us in this time and place, right here, right now. We offer ourselves wholeheartedly to You in the Spirit of Love. Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE READING: Ecclesiastes 4:12

Linda Lupton

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: *Pathways to Belonging*

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Scanlan-Holmes

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

New Century Hymnal #393

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Scott Semester

MEDITATION: *Call to Prayer*

P. Mark

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Scott Semester

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: *Where Two or Three Are Gathered*

B. Hardin

*DOXOLOGY: *Song of Thanks*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING: *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* (See back page)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Scanlan-Holmes

BLESSING SONG: *Because He Lives*

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*

Trad., arr. S. Baker

Today's Scripture Ecclesiastes 4:12

One alone is easily overpowered; two provide protection for each other; a rope of three strands is not easily broken.

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

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

Interested in becoming a member of First Congregational? Talk to Pastor Sarah about making First Congregational your church home. Joining the church as a member is a way to grow closer to one another and to God in the spirit of love.

Yoga at FCC! As part of our wellness ministries, yoga classes are now being offered in our building. Classes are Mondays & Wednesdays at 9:45 in the Mayflower Room and Saturdays at 9:30 in a main floor classroom (Mayflower Room when available). The instructor is Stephanie Schroeder of Creative Nature, and pre-registration is requested at www.creativenature.life. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin or Steve Coomer.

Worship Refreshment Hosting: On Sundays, our custom is to provide snacks and beverages before and after worship in the Parlor. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or you can contact Wendy Baldwin for more info and/or some 'training' on this process.

Ways to Connect & Serve: Interested in participating with a small group at First Congregational? Check out the Connect & Serve cards in the pews, and take one with you, if you like! Looking for an activity that isn't there? Contact Wendy Baldwin.

Food Donations to Northside Pantry: Help those with food insecurity by placing donations of canned or boxed food in the baskets in the Narthex.

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

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM – Join our Adult Ed group for thoughtful study and discussion or go to choir practice to rehearse for that morning's singing, all skill levels welcome!



Thank you for your financial gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: Exodus Refugee Immigration, the Peace Learning Center, and Family Promise. Gifts of single dollars and those designated to Covenant Outreach, are divided equally 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: 800-950-NAMI (6264). **The Trevor Project hotline** offers support for LGBTQIA+ youth and families struggling with mental health challenges: 866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) and www.theTrevorProject.org.

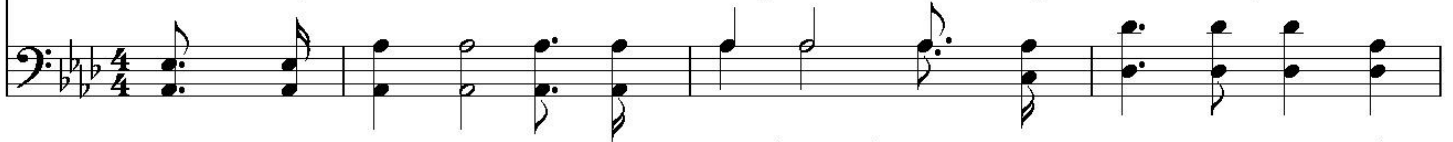
Will the Circle Be Unbroken?

Ada Ruth Habershon, 1907

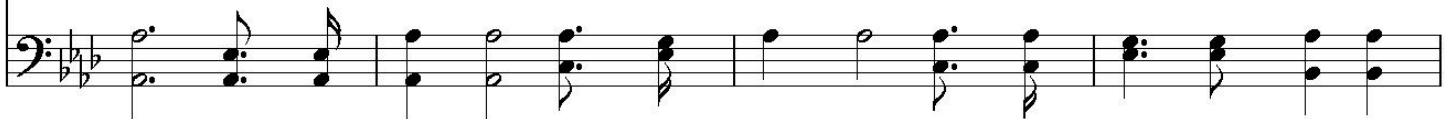
Charles Hutchinson Gabriel



1. There are loved ones in the glor - y, Whose dear forms you of - ten
2. In the joy - ous days of child - hood, Oft they told of wond - rous
3. You re - mem - ber song of heav - en Which you sang with child - ish
4. You can pic - ture hap - py ga - therings Round the fire - side long a -
5. One by one their seats were emp - tied, One by one they went a -



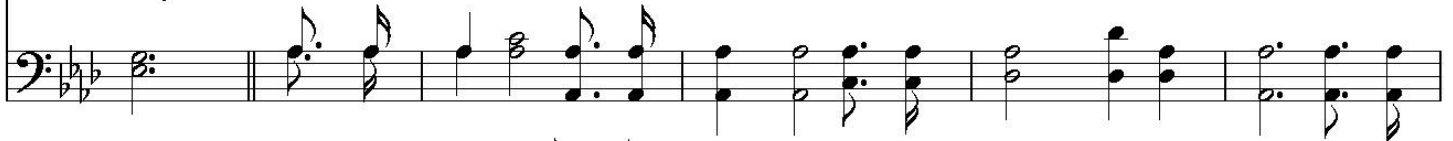
miss; When you close your earth - ly stor - y, Will you join them in their
love, Point - ed to the dy - ing Sav - ior Now they dwell with Him a -
voice, Do you love the hymns they taught you, Or are songs of earth your
- go, And you think of tear - ful part - ings, When they left you here be -
- way; Here the cir - cle has been brok - en— Will it be com - plete one



Refrain



bliss?
- bove.
choice? Will the cir - cle be un - brok - en By and by, by and by? In a
- low:
day?



bet - ter home a - wait - ing In the sky, in the sky?

