



Second Sunday of Easter
First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation
April 24, 2022
10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

Prelude *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* arr. Mark Sedio (1996)

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Music *Where Two or Three Are Gathered*

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.

Call to Worship

One: We gather for worship in this sacred season of Easter,

Many: celebrating empty grave clothes and stones that have been rolled away.

One: We gather for worship in this holy season of Spring,

Many: celebrating the warming sun and new life bursting forth.

One: We gather for worship this Earth Day weekend,

Many: celebrating God's creation and our responsibility to care for it.

One: We gather for worship celebrating new life, around us and within us.

Many: Come, let us worship our God.

Opening Hymn *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing* #17 (Lasst uns erfreuen)
verses 1-4

1 To you, O God, all creatures sing,
and all creation, everything
sings your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam,
your silver moon with softer gleam
sing your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2 Your wind that blows the tempest by,
your clouds that sail across the sky
sing your praises, alleluia!
Your morning rises with a song,
and lights of evening sing along,
sing your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

3 Your flowing waters, crystal clear,
make melodies for you to hear,
sing your praises, alleluia!
Your fire, bountiful and bright,
remembering your warmth and light,
sings your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

4 To you, O God, day after day,
your planet earth in every way
sings your praises, alleluia,
As savory fruit and fragrant flower
show forth your glory and your power,
singing praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Time With Children

**Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.
All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.**

Anthem

Keep Hope Alive

Donald Vails
arr. Nolan Williams (2000)

Keep hope alive. Don't let the dream die. Got to keep hope alive.

Scripture

Psalm 42:1-6a

Garda Kahn

Sermon

Rev. Robert Griggs

Prayer Hymn

As Pants the Hart

#481 (Land of Rest)

1. As pants the hart for cooling streams
when heated in the chase,
So longs my soul, O God, for you,
and your refreshing grace.

3. God of my strength, how long shall I,
like one forgotten, mourn,
Forlorn, forsaken, and exposed
to my oppressor's scorn?

2. Why restless, why cast down, my soul?
Trust God, who will employ
All grace for you, and change your sighs
to thankful hymns of joy.

4. Why restless, why cast down, my soul?
Hope still, and you shall sing
The praise of One who is your God,
Your health's eternal spring.

The Prayers

We will begin prayers in song, then a minister will pray, and there will be time for silent prayer. Then we will sing again. All joining worship on Zoom are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.

Sung Response

Erik Routley (1969)

One: All:

We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the spir-it of
God in - ter - cedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with the version here:

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Bernard Kyamanywa (b. 1938)

Christ has arisen, alleluia! Rejoice and praise him, alleluia!
For our redeemer burst from the tomb, even from death, dispelling its gloom.
Let us sing praise to him with endless joy; death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia, Jesus is living, alleluia!

Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be!
Jesus is living, let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.
Let us sing praise to him with endless joy; death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia, Jesus is living, alleluia!

Prayer of Thanks

Gracious God, we dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage, we pray. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Come, Celebrate with Thanksgiving
verses 1-2, in English

#246 (Chuquisaca)

1. Come, celebrate with thanksgiving,
come and worship God almighty,
Who is creator of all things,
and the giver of good gifts;
Who came to be one among us,
even dying on a cross.
Evil has been overcome,
and now death has been destroyed.
Celebrate that Christ is living
and then wait for God's great gift:
The divine and holy Spirit
Now may come into our hearts.

2. Come, celebrate in your feasting
that the God of liberation
Brings us to new life, new wholeness,
and forgives in joy and love.
With voices and happy drumming
Let us sing the triumph song.
God is alive and among us,
now our dancing hearts rejoice!
Celebrate that Christ is living
and then wait for God's great gift:
The divine and holy Spirit
Now may come into our hearts.

Benediction

We are so glad you worshiped here today! Zoom breakout rooms are available for friendship and conversation after the service. We hope you will stay!

News to Note

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. in person on Sundays. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here! Are you visiting today? [Fill out our virtual visitor card.](#)

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC’s ministry. [Give online now.](#) or send in your gifts via mail.

News & Announcements

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! [Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC’s weekly e-newsletter](#), and find First UCC on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](#).

This Week at First UCC

Monday, April 25

9 a.m. CVEC Organ Class (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, April 26

1-2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting (Assembly Room)

6:30 p.m. Northfield Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7:30 p.m. Church Council (Assembly Room)

Wednesday, April 27

6 p.m. Trustees Meeting

6:30 p.m. The Great Escape (Big Room)

7 p.m. CONNECT Group (Library)

7–8:15 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, April 28

1:30 p.m. CONNECT Group (Library)

Sunday, May 1

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship

1-5 p.m. Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.)

Call for Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 15, immediately following worship (at approximately 11:30 am). Members will vote in person or via Zoom on our Associate Minister candidate, Rev. Lauren Baske Davis.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed May 1-14

May 1 through 14, First UCC is responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels. All drivers will comply with a Covid Protocol, designed to keep both volunteers and clients safe. No volunteers will enter homes, nor will

they enter senior living centers past the front lobby. There are currently spots on all 5 routes, with a special need for drivers May 1 through 7. If you are willing to volunteer for this important ministry, please sign up at firstucc.org, clicking on the links below.

[May 1-7, 2022 MOW Volunteer Sign Up](#)

[May 8-14, 2022 MOW Volunteer Sign Up](#)

In-Person Children's Faith Formation May 1-22

Faith Formation is back for the month of May! All kids are encouraged to join us from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on May 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd, starting in the Assembly Room and moving to classrooms. There will be songs, Holy Moly videos, snacks, and a variety of small group activities that kids will be able to choose from. Be on the lookout for an email with more details, or reach out to Pastor Lauren with questions. We look forward to having you join us!

May Pop-Up Yoga

With warm weather on the way, celebrate Spring with yoga on the front lawn at at First UCC, Sunday mornings in May from 9:15-10:15 (no yoga Memorial Day weekend). Bring yoga mat, props, and dress for the weather. Consider bringing a chair if this would be helpful to your yoga practice. Yoga teachers Julie Maxson, Mary Carlson, Joan Lindholm, and Michelle Moad look forward to practicing yoga with you! In case of cool or wet weather, we will be meeting in the daycare space in the lowest level of the church, accessed by the staircase on the north side of the church or via the elevator.

First UCC LGBTQ+ Justice Group to Re-Form

Due to the recent anti-trans legislation around the country, First UCC needs to reorganize our LGBTQ+ or Open & Affirming Justice Team. If you are interested in leading and/or participating in such a group, please let Pastor Cindy know.

ISAIAH (Faith Based Community Organizing)

As we head toward the state legislative break, our representatives need to hear from us about legislation strongly advocated by ISAIAH aimed at creating a beloved community. In particular, please write your state senator asking them to enact paid family leave; COVID relief funding to honor the sacrifices of essential workers; a ban on no-knock warrants; adequate early education; and affordable childcare funding. Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

Say Their Names Intervention #34

Please join "Say Their Names Northfield" for our 34th intervention on Sunday, April 24th at 12:15 in Bridge Square. In honor of Earth Day, we will celebrate the "father of environmental justice," Dr. Robert Bullard. We will also continue to say the names of Black Individuals killed by police in our country, focusing on 2022. Finally, you will have the opportunity to decorate a memorial (or prayer) flag at the end of the event if you wish. Facebook Event Link: <https://fb.me/e/2fyd5v3Xk>

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Klee, Paul, 1879-1940. Joyful Mountain Landscape, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55666> [retrieved April 18, 2022]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Heitere_Gebirgslandschaft_by_Paul_Klee_1929.jpeg.

First UCC Leadership & Staff



Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Deb Gottfried

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Minister for Congregational Life: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Theo Wee

Director of Communications & Operations: Green Bouzard

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

AV Technician: Brynn Artley

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Thanks to this Week's Leaders



Ushers: Anne Meyer Ruppel, Barb Altstaetter, Carol Rutz, Cheryl Rempel, Elise Eslinger

Reader: Garda Kahn

Drummers: Kathy Kanazawa and Lars Marroquin-Haslett

Digital Zoom Host: Gary Wagenbach

Guest Preacher: Rev. Robert Griggs

Tech Team: Theo Miller

Worship Arts: Linda Gagnon