

Announcements This Week

- ✓ **Welcome to our worship this day!** *"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*
- ✓ **Our Liturgist this day is Colleen Anderson.**
- ✓ **Happy Mother's Day!** Today we celebrate mothers: those who care and nurture others.
- ✓ **Farewell choir,** as you enjoy your summer break. This is our last choral anthem until September. Now is time for "Special Music". If you have musical talents, please share them with us. Contact the pastor to be placed on our calendar for vocal, instrumental, or rhythmic arts.

Please pray:

- **For Mothers, both living and remembered.** May God bless those who give life, whether physically or emotionally to our community's young. Amen.
- **All those who are ill or homebound or in care facilities.**
- **For others in our lives, especially:** our Church Conference, Travelers, Military and First Responders.



First Congregational United Church of Christ



Sunday, May 8, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

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First Congregational Church UCC

"Fourth Sunday of Easter"

Sunday, May 8, 2022 10:00 am

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✠ "Invites all to stand in body or in spirit"

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELL

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP (One/**Many**)

The one who has died, has risen!

Jesus is new life.

Jesus raises us to new service.

Jesus raises us to resurrection joy.

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

✠ OPENING PRAYER

✠ HYMN

CH #90

"Come Christians, Join to Sing"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God,
we confess that we have strayed
from your paths of righteousness and peace.
We have dishonored you,
ourselves, and your creation;
we repent of these hurtful ways.
Forgive us, we pray,
as we learn to forgive others,
and guide our feet into the way of life.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠ GLORIA PATRI

***Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and always shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.***

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

PSALM LESSON

Psalm 23

CHILDREN'S TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART ☺

CHORAL ANTHEM

NEWER TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 9:36-43

MESSAGE

Rev. C Aurand

"The Gazelle that Peter Raised"

✠ HYMN

[printed]

"God of the Women"

A LITANY FOR MOTHER'S DAY

[see insert]

A TIME OF PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CH #306

***Hear our prayer, O Lord,
Hear our prayer, O Lord,
Incline your ear to us,
and grant us thy peace.***

A TIME OF OFFERING

✠ DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

✠ HYMN

"Jesus Love Me"

CH #113

✠ BENEDICTION & POSTLUDE



A LITANY FOR MOTHER'S DAY

All who gather here are sons or daughters.

We praise God for the women who gave us life.

For mothers—brave, strong, compassionate—full of wisdom and grace,

We give God thanks and praise.

For mothers vulnerable, worried, frustrated, and hurried,

We pray for peace.

For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

We pray for healing.

For mothers who have died, that live no longer with us, but whose light shines on in our hearts and memories,

We pray for those that mourn, and give God thanks for life eternal.

For mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,

We weep with those with broken hearts.

For those who are struggling to raise children, who are tired and weary,

We pray that we may be their village, offering real help in hard times.

For those who are preparing emptier nests,

We both celebrate and mourn with you, and hope their wings are as strong as their roots are deep.

For stepmothers, navigating the pitfalls and joys of creating a new family,

We pray for wisdom and patience.

For Grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again,

We pray the caregivers have those who care for them.

For those struggling with the pain of infertility, or seemingly impossible adoption hurdles,

We surround you with our supportive love, as we pray to our Lord.

For women who do not have children, but instead teach, lead, care for, and guide the children of others,

We give God thanks and praise.

For all mothers, sisters, daughters in our midst and around the world. For the women who, created in the image of God, give not just life, but abundant life. For women fighting, struggling, and sweating for the sake of others. For women caring, compassionate, and crying with the heart of Christ. For the caregivers, prophets, preachers, teachers, leaders, shepherds, healers. For Moms, in their wide variety and many forms,

We give God thanks and praise. Amen.

[Used with permission, by Rev. Robb McCoy, <https://fatpastor.me/2015/05/06/mothers-day-litany>]

God Of the Women

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10 ("Be Thou My Vision")

God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —
Give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —
May we give freely as they did before.

God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.

God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.

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