



SEASON OF CREATION
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
9:30 AM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

OPEN & AFFIRMING WELCOME STATEMENT

First Congregational Church of Akron unconditionally affirms all people as we live out our call to follow Jesus Christ and his teaching of inclusive love.

We welcome people of every race, age, nationality, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, family circumstance, socio-economic status, physical and mental ability, or spiritual background.

We invite all who are seeking God's presence in their lives to participate fully in our church life, ministry, and leadership.

We strive to be a safe place, free from the fear of judgment, where wounds can heal, differences are cherished, and inclusivity is intentional.

We commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice, discrimination, violence, and hatred, in order to foster a world of peace and wholeness.

God loves you. Christ invites you. We embrace and celebrate you.

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come!

All: Come and worship,

One: you who woke early and you who slept late;

All: you who come often, and you who don't.

One: Whether we are first, or last, or somewhere in between,

All: there is room for all of us in God's kingdom,

One: and more than enough grace to go around!

All: Let's worship God together!

Perpetual Praise

**Your many blessings are new each morning
and with each dawning we sing your praise!
From early morning to restful evening
our grateful hearts sing praises!**

**Your love and mercy, shining bright,
bring hope and joy
as we follow in your Light.**

**You breathe within us.
You sing within us.
You move our hearts to perpetual praise!
Through all of our days.
Perpetual praise! *Repeat from beginning***

The Grace of God is Yours
**Reach out your hands, accept the gift.
Reach out your hands, accept the gift.
Reach out your hands, embrace the gift,
the grace of God is yours.**

**Reach out your hands, receive the gift.
Reach out your hands, receive the gift.
Reach out your hands, embrace the gift,
the grace of God is yours.**

**And it is free, free, free. And it is free, free, free.
And it is free, free, free. The grace of God is yours.**

**Reach out your hands, accept the gift.
Reach out your hands, accept the gift.
Reach out your hands, embrace the gift,
the grace of God is yours.**

**Reach out your hands, and share the gift.
Reach out your hands, and share the gift.
Reach out your hands, embrace the gift,
the grace of God is yours.**

**And it is free, free, free. And it is free, free, free.
And it is free, free, free. The grace of God is yours. *Repeat***

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

READING FROM THE PSALMS

105:1-6

O give thanks to God, call on God's name,
make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to God;
tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name;

let hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

Seek God and God's strength; seek God's presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done,
the miracles and the judgements God uttered,

O offspring of Abraham and Sarah, God's servants,
Children of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, God's chosen ones.

THOUGHTS FOR THE YOUNG

INVITATION TO PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

SUNG MEDITATION

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying

Lord, send your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace! Repeat

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (please use the language most familiar to you)

**Our Father, 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.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?"

And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.'

So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give

to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

SERMON

What Is It? Manna!

ANTHEM

Laudate Dominum

W.A. Mozart

*Praise the Lord all nations, praise him all peoples. For he has bestowed his mercy upon us,
and the truth, the truth of the Lord endures, endures forever.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now and forever, and for generations of generations.*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

Let It Rise

*Please visit www.akronfcc.org/donate to support
the vital and ongoing ministries and missions of First Church
or mail your donation to 292 East Market Street, Akron OH 44308.*

OFFERING PRAYER

HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of
turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

***Refrain:* Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy
hand hath provided - Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest; sun moon and stars in their
courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***

**Pardon for sin and a peace endureth, thy dear own presence to cheer
and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. *Refrain***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Grand Choeur

arr. Christiane Willand Kessler

*If you have joined the service live on zoom or on the phone, please consider
remaining on the call for a time of fellowship after worship.*

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister

Antigoné Lowery, Associate Minister

DeAnn Clemons, Reader

Julie Lehman, Choir Director and Organist

Dave Aberth, Celebrate Service Music Leader

Amanda-Joyce Abbott, Nicholas Campagna, Stephanie Corbin, Ben Hayes, Dave Lehman, Kellie

Ramirez, Mike Vincent, Courtney Zimmerman, Vocalists and Instrumentalists

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