



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 8, 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

Adoration

Florence B. Price

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP⁺

One: It is time to wake up,

All: for God is about to surprise us.

One: It is time to prepare,

All: for God's love is about to change the world.

One: It is time to get ready,

All: for God needs us to proclaim the good news.

One: It is time to worship,

All: for God is here now!

HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

**Guide me, O great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain, when the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still, my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Bear me through the swelling current; land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

THOUGHTS FOR THE YOUNG

ANTHEM

The Spirit Leads On and On

John Ness Beck

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**

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

**Our Father, which 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.**

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve God in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. God protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the Lord, our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for God is holy. God is jealous and will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then God will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and God we will obey." So, Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of God, and God's might, and the wonders that God has done.

God established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which God commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

HYMN

All My Hope on God Is Founded

**All my hope on God is founded, who does still my trust still renew.
Safe through change and chance God guides me, ever faithful, ever true.
God unknown, God alone, seeks to claim my heart as home.**

**Human pride and earthly glory, sword and crown betray our trust;
Though with care and toil, we build them, tower and temple fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour, is my temple and tower.**

**But in every time and season, out love's abundant store,
God sustains the whole creation fount of life forever more.
We who share earth and air count on God's unfailing care.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

Locus Iste

Anton Bruckner

Translation: *This Place was Made by God*

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

SONG

Take My Life

**Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
Swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing; unto God my praise I bring.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
Filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my love, Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee.
Ever, only all for thee.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sinfonia from Solomon

G.F. Handel

*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

Brenda Waddell, Guest Preacher

Larry Becker, Lay Leader

Julie Lehman, Choir Director and Organist

Dave Aberth, Celebrate Service Music Leader

Amanda-Joyce Abbott, Tim Borham, Nicholas Campagna, Stephanie Corbin, Ben Hayes, Mickey McGroarty, Dave Lehman, Kellie Ramirez, Brian Randall, and Courtney Zimmerman, Instrumentalists and Vocalists

+ From The Abingdon Worship Annual, edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu