



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 29, 2020

9:30 AM

WELCOME

CENTERING SONG: *Gathered Here*

**Gathered here in the mystery of the hour,  
Gathered here in one strong body,  
Gathered here in the struggle and the pow'r: Spirit draw near.**

CENTERING REFLECTION & PRAYER

TIME OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

*The Rising*

**From the rising of the sun till the sun goes down  
Let the name of the Lord be praised. *Repeat***

**We gather to worship, becoming a choir to sing your praise.  
Lifting our voices; joining our hearts in this house today.**

**People of God...  
And the power of God...  
For the kingdom of God... we sing.**

**From the rising of the sun till the sun goes down  
Let the name of the Lord be praised. *Repeat***

**From the sky to the depths from the east to the west we give you praise.**

**From the rising of the sun till the sun goes down  
Let the name of the Lord be praised. *Repeat***

**From the sky to the depths from the east to the west we give you praise.**

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

**Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.**

**Up on the mountain, my Lord spoke out his mouth came fire and smoke.  
All around me looks so fine ask my Lord if all was mine. Every time I feel the Spirit...**

**Jordan River chilly and cold, chills the body, not the soul.  
Ain't but one train on this track, runs to heaven and right back.**

**Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.**

**I have heartache, I have woe, I have trouble here below.  
While God leads me, I'll not fear, I am sheltered by God's care. Every time I feel the Spirit...**

*Be Unto Your Name*

**We are a moment you are forever. Lord of the ages, God before time.  
We are a vapor, you are eternal. Love everlasting, reigning on high.**

**Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, worthy is the Lamb who came.  
Highest praises, honor and glory be unto your name, be unto your name.**

**We are the broken, you are the healer. Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save.  
You are the love song we'll sing forever, bowing before you, blessing your name.**

**Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, worthy is the Lamb who came.  
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, worthy is the Lamb who came.  
Highest praises, honor and glory be unto your name, be unto your name.**

#### TIME OF PRAYER

*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***

#### MUSIC REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know."

Then the Lord said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then

he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

MESSAGE: *Look! It's possible!*

SENDING SONGS: *We'll Build a Land*

**We'll build a land where we bind up the broken.  
We'll build a land where the captives go free,  
where the oil of gladness dis-solves all mourning.  
Oh, we'll build a prom-ised land that can be.**

**Come build a land where sis-ters and broth-ers,  
filled with the Spi-rit, may then create peace:  
where jus-tice shall roll down like wa-ters,  
and peace like and ev-er flow-ing stream.**

**We'll build a land where we bring the good tidings to all  
the af-flict-ed and all those who mourn.  
And we'll give them garlands instead of ashes.  
Oh, we'll build a land where peace is born.**

**Come build a land where sis-ters and broth-ers,  
filled with the Spi-rit, may then create peace:  
where jus-tice shall roll down like wa-ters,  
and peace like and ev-er flow-ing stream.**

**We'll build a land where the forests are fer-tile,  
where the waters and wind run clean and clear  
and com-mun-ity matters more than possessions.  
Come share this land, let's build it right here.**

**Come build a land where sis-ters and broth-ers,  
filled with the Spi-rit, may then create peace:  
where jus-tice shall roll down like wa-ters,  
and peace like and ev-er flow-ing stream.**

*May the Blessing of God*

**May the blessing of God go before you,  
May her grace and peace abound.  
May her spirit live within you,  
May her love wrap you 'round.  
May her blessing remain with you always,  
May you walk on holy ground.**

## BLESSING

# NEWS & NOTES

### LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister  
Antigoné Lowery, Associate Minister  
Music and vocals: Dave Aberth, Kellie Ramirez, Brian Randall, & Mike Vincent  
Greg Petusky, AV Tech

CCLI License #11234842 and CCS License #8399

**Coronavirus COVID-19 Cancellations.** In support of statewide efforts to contain the coronavirus (COVID-19), all non-essential church meetings and activities have been postponed and our office is closed to visitors. Our pastors and staff are here to support and speak with members remotely. Essential meetings will take place remotely, please expect updates from your team's facilitator. Sunday worship services are available remotely via livestream at [www.akronfcc.org/live](http://www.akronfcc.org/live) or via our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/FCCofAkron](http://www.facebook.com/FCCofAkron). At present we will continue to operate the Feeding Hope Food Pantry in a modified manner recommended by the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank. Please visit [www.akronfcc.org](http://www.akronfcc.org) to learn more.

**Feeding Hope Food Pantry.** In keeping with our Food Justice vision priority and to provide a source of healthy food in this difficult time for families in need, the pantry will be open as scheduled on Tuesday mornings from 9:30am-11:30am and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30pm, until further notice and as long as it has sufficient volunteers. The process for distribution will be vastly different, however. Patrons will be asked to stay in their vehicles if they drive or stand outside in a line, 6 feet apart, if they arrive on foot. Some volunteers, those who are comfortable doing so, will be outside interacting with patrons, others will remain indoors preparing orders. For more information, contact [food.pantry@akronfcc.org](mailto:food.pantry@akronfcc.org).

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER

#### **Palm Sunday & Communion**

Sunday, April 5, one service only at 10am online  
Participants viewing remotely will be invited to participate in Communion in real time via the live stream and are encouraged to have bread and juice ready ahead.

### **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 9, 7pm online

Join us online a service focused on the profound night Jesus spent with his disciples washing their feet, sharing the new commandment, and the first communion. Viewers will be invited to participate in Communion in real time via the live stream and are encouraged to have bread and juice ready ahead

### **Good Friday**

Friday, April 10, 7pm online

Join us online for a deeply moving service of readings and music. As a part of this *tenebrae* service, we'll slowly dim the lights and invite participants viewing remotely to extinguish candles or dim their lights so prepare in advance, if you would like to participate. If you have confidential prayer requests you want us to nail to the cross during the service, please email them to [nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org](mailto:nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org).

### **Easter Sunday**

Sunday, April 12, one service only at 10am online

Join us for a celebratory worship service. A time honored tradition of organ and instrumental praise that connects us to the hope and promise of Easter, wherever we may be!

**Easter Flowers.** We're still accepting orders for Easter flowers! Flowers are \$9 per plant and can be made in honor or memory of loved ones, which will be listed in the Easter Sunday order of service. All orders are due today, Sunday, March 29. You can order via email by contacting Kasey Kalchert at [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org). Be sure to include quantity and who you wish to honor or remember. Payments can be made online at [www.akronfcc.org/donate](http://www.akronfcc.org/donate).

**Limitless Ambition is the March Mission of the Month.** Monies raised by our Mission of the Month will be added to the outreach funds allocated to support Limitless Ambition's Purposely Chosen Teen Enrichment Programs. If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check out to First Congregational Church of Akron with "Limitless Ambition" in the memo line or donate online at [www.akronfcc.org/donate](http://www.akronfcc.org/donate). Thank you.

**New Online Programs.** In the midst of COVID-19, we are taking our services to the web and finding new ways to connect. Join us for worship at 9:30 and 11am. Each Sunday between worship, we will publish a *Thoughts for the Young* message for our younger members, and every Wednesday at noon, we'll livestream a *Time of Prayer and Reflection* on our website at [www.akronfcc.org/live](http://www.akronfcc.org/live) or via our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/FCCofAkron](http://www.facebook.com/FCCofAkron).

**AAIC Hunger Walk.** The Akron Area Interfaith Council Hunger Walk is going virtual this year to help raise funds for the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. Due to the economic impact of coronavirus, job loss and other factors have heightened the need in our community. Any contribution will help! Please consider donating online at <https://www.facebook.com/AkronInterfaith/> or <http://www.akroninterfaith.org/hunger-walks/>

## **IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS**

We offer daily prayers of thanksgiving for all who are struggling in body, mind, or spirit each day. We pray especially for all those around the world who are affected by the coronavirus; those who are sick and those who care for them, those who work tirelessly to provide treatment and vaccine. We give thanks for our public officials and leaders, those who staff hospitals and work in grocery stores, for first responders and emergency service providers. Within our community we pray for Chris, Marilyn, Margaret, Jessica, Lola, Barbara, Carole, George, Madeline, Betty, Wanda, Art, and Doug.

## **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.

### **First Congregational Church of Akron**

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