



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

19 APRIL 2020

9:30 AM

## 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.

WELCOME

CENTERING REFLECTION & PRAYER

TIME OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol-low Je-sus  
God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Je-sus**

*Refrain:*

**In him there is no dark-ness at all; the night and the day are both a-like.  
The Lamb is the light of the cit-y of God: shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus**

**I am to see the bright-ness of God; I want look at Je-sus**

**Clear Sun of the righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ; I want to be with Je-sus.  
When we have run with pa-tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je-sus. *Refrain*

*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

*Draw the Circle Wide*

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
Standing side by side  
Draw the circle wide.

God, the still-point of the circle,  
'Round whom all cre-a-tion turns  
Nothing lost, but held forever  
In God's gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
Standing side by side  
Draw the circle wide.

Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
So encompass great and small  
Let our loving know no borders  
Faithful to God's call.

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
Standing side by side  
Draw the circle wide.**

#### 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: John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

MESSAGE: *See it to Believe it*

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

CCLI License #11234842 and CCS License #8399

**Coronavirus COVID-19 Cancellations.** In support of efforts to contain the coronavirus (COVID-19), all non-essential church meetings and activities have been postponed and our office and building are 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 ministry team facilitators. Sunday worship services are only 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.

**New Online Programs.** In the midst of COVID-19, we are finding new ways to connect. 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). Find details of more new programs on the next page. We look forward to seeing you online!

**Coming Out Christian.** Coming Out Christian will be meeting remotely this Sunday, April 19, from 6-7pm. In a safe space, members of the LGBTQ+ community can come together to explore Christianity and the possibility of understanding faith in new ways as we reclaim and explore our faith journeys. Join us as we rethink God's love toward LGBTQ+ Christians! If you would like to join the discussion, please RSVP to Brenda Waddell by 5pm on the 19th. You will receive a Zoom link in your email to join the conversation.

**Family Connect through Zoom.** For some of our parents/guardians, the added challenge of homeschooling, working from home, and maintaining some semblance of normality is taxing. No one said parenting would be easy, but they also didn't say you would be parenting during a pandemic! Recognizing how social-distancing has affected much of our ability to connect with others, Pastors Antigone and Nanette will be hosting a time online for parents/guardians to connect through Zoom on Sunday, April 19 from 7pm-8:30pm. This will be a fun, relaxed opportunity for the adults in the family to share some of the challenges, joys, or overall quirks of family life in the age of the coronavirus. More than anything, it will be good reminder that you are not alone! If you would like to join us, please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert, [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org) by 6pm on the 19th. We look forward to seeing you online!

**20/30 Zoom Connect.** Connect with other millennials and our pastors online for a time of fellowship. This will be a chance to interact with other young adults about the current state of life and all of the joys and concerns that come with it during this pandemic, held on Thursday, April 23 from 6:30pm-8pm. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert, [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org) by 5:30pm on the 23rd. We hope to see you online!

**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. Operating with a skeleton crew of volunteers, the process for distribution is vastly different. Patrons are asked to stay in their vehicles if they drive or to stand outside in a line, 6 feet apart, if they arrive on foot. In light of the shelter in place order, we can only accept monetary donations (no donated items), please visit [www.akronfcc.org/donate](http://www.akronfcc.org/donate)

**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.

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

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