



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 14, 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

Welcome to the House / You Are Good

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Welcome to the house of the Lord,

It's a house filled with praise,

a house filled with joy.

Gathered in one accord,

Let the people rejoice in the house of the Lord. Repeat

Lord, you are good

and your mercy endures forever. Repeat

**People from every nation will come, from generation to generation;
We worship you, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
We worship you for who you are.**

**We worship you, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
We worship you for who you are. You are good!**

**Lord, you are good
and your mercy endures forever. *Repeat***

**People from every nation will come, from generation to generation;
We worship you, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
We worship you for who you are.**

**We worship you, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
We worship you for who you are. You are good!**

**People from every nation will come, from generation to generation;
We worship you, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
We worship you for who you are.**

**We worship you, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
We worship you for who you are,
for who you are,
for who you are,
and you are good!**

You're Worthy of My Praise

**I will worship with all of my heart;
I will praise you with all of my strength.
I will seek you all of my days;
I will follow all of your ways.**

**I will give you all my worship;
I will give you all my praise,
you alone I long to worship,
you alone are worthy of my praise.**

**I will bow down, and hail you as King:
I will serve you, give you everything.
I will lift up my eyes in your throne,
I will trust you, trust you alone.**

**I will give you all my worship;
I will give you all my praise,
you alone I long to worship,
you alone are worthy of my praise. Repeat**

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: Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:35-10:25

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go,

proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

"See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!"

MESSAGE: *Carrying a Good Word*

SENDING SONGS: *Loving Only You, O Christ*

Refrain: Loving only you, O Christ, loving only you, O Christ.

Loving only you, O Christ, and never looking back.

I follow in your steps, my Lord,

While never giving up, my Lord.

I fall before your altar, Lord

While never looking back.

Loving only you, O Christ, listening to your message Christ

Loving only you, O Christ, I seek to do your will

I will protect the weak, my Lord.

I will defend the poor, my Lord.

I will proclaim your reign, my Lord.

While never turning back. Refrain

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

Regathering Survey. As we consider a phased return to a more normal routine of in-person gathering, you are invited to give your perspective and comment. Please visit www.akronfcc.org/regathering-survey and have each member of your household who attends worship complete the quick four question survey as soon as possible.

Give securely to First Church on our website! Give securely to First Church on our website! Go to www.akronfcc.org/donate to make a donation or to set up a recurring donation. We have a secure website to manage our online transactions, so you do not need to worry about electronic giving! If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Janis Worley at janis.worley@akronfcc.org You are also welcome to mail a donation to 292 East Market Street, Akron OH 44308. Thank you!

TONIGHT Coming Out Christian. Members of the LGBTQ+ community are invited to come together online on Sunday, June 14, from 6-7pm, to explore Christianity 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 Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by 5pm on the meeting day. You will receive a Zoom link in your email to join the conversation.

Movie Discussion: 13th Tuesday, June 16, 7-9pm. Ava DuVernay's powerful documentary 13th argues that although slavery was ostensibly abolished in 1865, a clause of the thirteenth amendment legally embedded and allowed a pernicious form of enslavement into American institutions. Watch the movie on Netflix (free trial membership is available) and download Education for Justice's [study guide](#) that will guide our conversation. To join the discussion, RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by 5pm on the day to receive the Zoom link to join.

To Infinity and Beyond! Bible Study. Join Pastor Nanette for the second part of a study of the Acts of the Apostles describing the spread of the Christian faith to the gentiles beyond Jerusalem and Samaria. We'll meet on Wednesdays in June from 7-8:15pm online. In the first week, we'll focus on chapters 9-12:25. Advance reading is suggested but not required. To attend, please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by 5pm on the meeting day. You will receive a Zoom link in your email to join the conversation.

Youth Night "What's in the Box?" Game on Zoom! Join Pastor Antigoné on Friday, June 19, from 6pm-7:30pm for another Zoom game night! This month, we will try our hands at playing a fun game called, "What's in the Box?" In this game, each person will choose the weirdest or most random object they can think of, keeping it out of sight in a box while each person takes turns trying to guess what the object is. The person who guesses right the most times will win a fun surprise! To join the fun, RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by Thursday, June 18 at 5pm.

Church Chat! Fellowship Online. Are you missing Coffee Hour after church? Missing the chance to see and catch up with other members and friends? Join our pastors and others from church online for fellowship on Thursday, June 25, from 8:30-9:30am, RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by 5pm the day before and you'll receive a Zoom link in your email to join the conversation. We look forward to seeing you online with coffee in hand!

The Akron-Area YMCA is the June Mission of the Month. The mission at the Y is "to put Christian principles into practices through the programs that build a healthy, spirit, mind, and body for all." The core values of the Y are caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, and faith with the areas of focus including youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Watch this [video](#) to hear more about the Akron-Area YMCA programs! If you like to make a contribution, please make your check out the First Congregational Church of Akron with "Akron-Area YMCA" in the memo line or donate online at www.akronfcc.org/donate

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.

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