



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

TRINITY SUNDAY
JUNE 7, 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

Come On In!

Our door is always o-pen so won't you come on in?

You are always wel-come

no matter where you've been.

When you seek Christ in fellowship,

community begins.

Our door is always o-pen so won't you come on in?

Come on in! Come on in! Our door is always o-pen so won't you come on in?

Come on in! Come on in! Our door is always o-pen so won't you come on in?

**This is the house of wondrous love,
being Christian is our creed.
See the light through Jesus Christ,
our Sav-ior indeed.
He helps us live our daily lives, for benefit of all.
To keep the world in harmony
so surely is God's call.**

**Come on in! Come on in! Our door is always o-pen so won't you come on in?
Come on in! Come on in! Our door is always o-pen so won't you come on in?
So won't you come on in?**

Draw the Circle Wide

Refrain

**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. *Refrain***

**Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small.
Let our loving know no borders
faithful to God's call. *Refrain 2x***

Come, Share the Lord

**We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving Son
God Almighty makes us one:**

Refrain

**Come, take the bread;
come, drink the cup;
come, share the Lord.**

**No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs;
finding our forgiveness here,
we in turn forgive all wrongs.**

He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the one we love the most is now our gracious host: *Refrain*

We are now a family of which the Lord is head;
though unseen he meets us here
in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait: *Refrain*

RECOGNIZING OUR TEACHERS AND ALL GRADUATES

Congratulations to the 2020 College & High School Graduates!

Jonathan Lemmon

Cassidy McCallion

Colin Pierce Bishop

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our greatest teacher through Christ,
for the presence and talents of teachers, volunteers and graduates.

All: Together with God, we celebrate each of you.

One: We thank God for all Church School teachers and volunteers,
both past and present, for committing themselves to Christian ministry
through their time spent teaching our students and supporting our parents.

All: Together with God, we affirm each of you.

One: We thank God for our graduates, both present and future,
for committing themselves to their schoolwork and teachers
through many years of study and hard work.

All: Together with God, we encourage each of you.

One: We thank God for our children and youth of the past, present, and future,
for trusting our church to reflect in teaching and deed
the love and support of God to each.

All: Together with God, we commit our love to each of you.

One: May God bless and keep each of our teachers, volunteers, and graduates
as they journey forward in faith towards what God has established
for them through our church and beyond.

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

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

MESSAGE: *To Make Disciples*

COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing the Bread and Cup

We celebrate an open communion table; everyone is welcome to participate.

Our pastors will preside leading us all through the sacrament. They will allow time during worship for us to prepare our bread and juice as we participate remotely.

If you do not have either you may, like the early Christians, use what you have on hand.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

SENDING SONGS: *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 darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the cit-y of God: shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

I want to see the brightness of God; I want look at Je-sus.

Clear Sun of the righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. Refrain

I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Je-sus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Je-sus. *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: Kathy Johnson, 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.

Support First Church's Ministry. Visit www.akronfcc.org/donate to support the vital and ongoing ministries and missions of this congregation. You are also welcome to mail a donation to 292 East Market Street, Akron OH 44308. Thank you!

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 this Tuesday, June 9, and 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!

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.

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. 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

Time with Tots Breakfast Zoom. Join Pastor Antigóné next Saturday, June 13, from 8am-9:30am for another time of connection and fellowship. As we work towards and anticipate gathering again in person, we hope that this virtual opportunity for families with toddler age children proves to be as valuable and fun! To RSVP, please send an email to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by Friday, June 12 at 4pm. We look forward to seeing each of you bright and early with coffee in hand!

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 on 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. *13th* traces a 150 year-old history of race, incarceration, and disempowerment of minority communities in America. 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 and you'll receive an email with a link to join.

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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