



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 9, 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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

arr. Phillip Keveren

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: With praying hearts we gather here,
to proclaim the glory of the Lord.

**All: We must take heart and not be afraid,
for the Lord gives peace to those who trust.**

One: With gentleness and compassion,
God calls us to the water
where fears and doubts go quiet.

**All: Let us worship the Lord, who calls us forward,
with hope, faith, and love.**

Refrain: **You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey.
You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
come and join with us, we're united in the church of Christ.**

**Come now all people, join in the song,
come be a part of the family of God.
We are God's people and you belong,
share in the joy of Christ. *Refrain***

**We pray for justice; we pray for peace;
we hear the word of the Savior of all.
We find God's mercy; we find release,
sharing the joy of Christ. *Refrain***

**Lifting each other; doing what's right;
standing together, whatever may come;
praising our Savior, shining our light,
sharing the joy of Christ. *Refrain***

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 85:8-13

Let me hear what God the Most High will speak;
For God will speak peace to God's people,
to those who are faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.
Surely salvation is at hand for those who revere God,
that the glory of God may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
God will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before God,
and will make a path for God's steps.

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**

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

**Our Father, who 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.**

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

SERMON

The Heart of Jesus Series: The Praying Heart of Jesus

ANTHEM

The Prayer

arr. Danny McClurkin

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

Day by Day

arr. Mark Hayes

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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

Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom

Faith while trees are still in blossom, plans the picking of the fruit; faith can feel the thrill of harvest when the buds begin to sprout.

**Long before the dawn is breaking, faith anticipates the sun.
Faith is eager for the daylight,
for the word that must be done**

Faith, uplifted, tamed the water of the undivided sea, and the people of the Hebrews, found the path that made them free.

Faith believes that God is faithful: God will be what will God will be! Faith accepts the call; responding, "I am willing, Lord, send me."

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude in C Major

Felix Mendelssohn

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

Elizabeth Wilson, Reader

Julie Lehman, Choir Director and Organist

Dave Aberth, Celebrate Service Music Leader

Amanda-Joyce Abbott, Nicholas Campagna, Stephanie Corbin, Dave Lehman, Kellie Ramirez, Vocalists

Stephanie Corbin, Matt Dudack, Mike Vincent, Instrumentalists

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