

Welcome to First Congregational Church



JANUARY 16, 2022

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jazz Sanctuary - January 16th @ 1pm - "Turning the Tables: The Jazz of Righteous Anger" How do we discern when anger is the energy for constructive change vs when it leads to physical or emotional violence and trauma? Join us for the discussion and worship!

Virtual Fellowship Time - January 23rd from Noon - 12:45pm. The Spiritual Life Team invites everyone to a time of fellowship on Zoom. We will be brainstorming about: how often to have a virtual fellowship time, how to use the time (sermon reflections, short video and discussion, and/or open dialogue and conversation), as well as inviting different people and or groups to host each time. Please join us!

Appeal for Tornado Storm Assistance: From now until January 31st, 2022 we will be collecting funds to assist those whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the recent tornados. 100% of the proceeds will go to assist those in need. You can give online, or send in a check with "tornado assistance" written in the memo line.

Veterans of the Cross: Now called the Christmas Fund, is one of the 5-for-5 offerings of the UCC and has helped to care for active and retired clergy, lay employees, and widows/widowers for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks. Let's show our appreciation of our retired ministers and give generously.

For the month of January, the Page Turners are reading "Madison Park: A Place of Hope," Eric Motley. The discussion will be on Monday, January 24th at 2pm.

The Anti-Racism Study Group will next meet on Tuesday, January 18th from 7-8pm on Zoom, and will discuss the 3rd installment "Round 3" of the Muhammad Ali documentary by Ken Burns.

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An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

January 16, 2022

***Please stand if you are able**

PRELUDE

Tu Has Venido a la Orilla (#173)

Annie

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship:

Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth.

Let us worship God together.

*Hymn of Adoration: #577 God the Omnipotent! (Public Domain)

Introit: ("I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty" by Gerhard Tersteegen, 1757)

I sing the praise of Love almighty, which shines revealed in Jesus' face. I offer up all that delights me, all mean desires, each fond embrace. Turn from myself, in pure devotion, and eager plunge in love's vast ocean.

Confession of Sin:

Let us confess our sins before God and one another:

Most merciful god, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Moment of Silence

Assurance of Pardon:

Almighty God, who is great in mercy and promises forgiveness of sin to all who truly repent and are sincere in faith, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all sin, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

*Act of Praise ("Gloria Patri") #759

Glory to God the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-one; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Here now Psalm 17 from the Rev. Benjamin Chavis psalter...

Psalter Lesson Psalm 17

Here ends the Psalter Lesson.

Amen.

Listen for the Word of God in Psalm 127...

Psalter Lesson Psalm 127:1-2 (NRSV)

Tim Wildman

This is the good news.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Affirmation of Faith (United Church of Christ Statement of Faith as Doxology)

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your Deeds we testify:**

**You called the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save our people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and
risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and to resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and Victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Hymn: #589

Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts (Public Domain)

Prayers of the People

(Response to each prayer:)

Christ, in your mercy,
Receive our prayers.

Pastoral Prayer (by the Fairtrade Foundation & John van de Laar)

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us:

Our Father, which 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offertory

Invitation

Gratitude Music

Cuentos de la Juventud, Op. 1 no. 1 by Enrique Granados

*Doxology: #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost**

*Prayer of Gratitude:

Holy God, in Jesus Christ you have built for us an eternal house, a temple of righteousness, a place of gracious plenty for the hungry, and abundant life for the poor in spirit. Fill us with zeal for the body of Christ! Use our offering to overturn the tables of corruption and greed and upset the imbalance of injustice, so that we may worship you in spirit and truth; through Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed.

Hymn of Parting: #571

O God of Love, O God of Peace (Public Domain)

Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude

Sois la Semilla (#528)

Annie

