

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

April 28, 2024

10:00 AM

"We are a community in Christ, called to act with love toward our neighbors."

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(As we prepare for worship, we invite quiet contemplation of the Living God.)

**For those who are able, please stand.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT #172 (NCH-Black) "Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult"

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN #275 (UCC-Red) "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 22:24-30)

24 My praise is of God in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall sing praises:

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord;

who rules over the nations.

28 To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust fall before the Lord.

29 My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve God;

they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn

the saving deeds that God has done.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, whose Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path, we recognize and confess that we have failed to respond fully to your gracious presence in our lives. Through Jesus Christ you have offered us new life, fulfillment, and the freedom to serve you. We confess that we are captive to sin, that our sin binds us with false pride, and that the wrong we do is made worse through the good we leave undone. Reconcile us to you and to all people. God of mercy, forgive all our sin and strengthen us anew for life as you intend it; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

*SONG OF PRAISE #338 (UCC-red) (Gloria Patri)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

GOD MOMENT

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 15:1-8
Acts 8:26-40

THE CHILD IN US ALL

SERMON

"A Most Fruitful Harvest"

PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY

*HYMN #99 (NCH-Black)

"Abide With Me"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - CONCERNS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR GIFTS (Please send pledges & donations to the church via mail or use online giving through our website. Loose offerings go into the general church fund.)

MUSICAL OFFERING – ANTHEM "O Come, O Come Immanuel" Natalie Sleeth

*SONG OF PRAISE HYMN #780 Doxology (NCH – Black)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, O heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, through your Word, help us become ever stronger branches on your vine, growing and reaching out to bring the Good News of salvation to the world. We pray with gratitude for the infinite love shown through Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen

*HYMN #13 (UCC-Red)

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #812 (NCH-Black) "Threefold Amen"

Amen, Amen, Amen

POSTLUDE

WE EXTEND THE HAND of Christian fellowship to all who have come to worship in this Welcoming, Open and Affirming congregation. May our prayers and the hearing of God's Word make our burdens lighter, our hearts encouraged, and our souls refreshed.

If you are visiting for the first time, we welcome you.

OUR THANKS to Kyle Washburn and all who participated in our service this morning.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given by Barb Lacey – Just because its spring!

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE NEEDED! Please call Cynthia King, 885-5831, if you would like to sign up for flowers.

CHECK OUT our new church web site: firstchurchspringfield.org and our YouTube channel **First Church Springfield 4738** (@firstchurchspringfield4738)

TO JOIN OUR ONLINE LIVE WORSHIP SERVICE EACH SUNDAY AT 10 AM, CLICK ON THE LINK FOR OUR NEW WEBSITE:

www.firstchurchspringfield.org

Note that a copy of the bulletin and hymns are available midway on the homepage.

Click on Worship on the homepage and it will take you to our Facebook page and a live video. Click on the video.

Glad you can worship with us!

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BILL NELSON will be held on May 19th at 1 PM at the Davis Memorial Chapel.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

Those words can mean most anything. Would you or someone you know benefit from prayers, home visits, help with shopping, rides to appointments, prepared meals, food to help you over a hard time? If you have such a need, or know someone who does, please contact one of the Congregational Care co-chairs. Claire Trask at 886-7377.

SPRING CLEANING DAY is set for Saturday, April 27th. We will be starting at 9AM. Please plan to attend as many hands make light work.

New Member Sunday Coming May 19th!

Curious about joining the Church and what membership means? Maybe you've decided this is the place for you and you'd like to make it official. If this applies to you please feel free to talk with Pastor Michael for more information!

PRAYER	Marlene	Calvin
	Vaughn	All others in need

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR!

Apr	28	Worship Service – Michael Mario	10:00 AM
Apr	30	Evening Bible Study via Zoom	7:00 PM
May	2	Wilderness Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM
May	5	Worship Service – Michael Mario	10:00 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tues. & Wed. 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M

PASTOR'S HOURS

Wed. & Thurs. 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

STAFF

Pastor: Michael Mario

Administrative Assistant: Judy Lasell

Sexton: Todd Murray

~ *NOTES* ~

Inspiring quotes from Bible study:

"My child, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off". Proverb 24:13-14