



The First Congregational Church

Chappaqua, New York

United Church of Christ

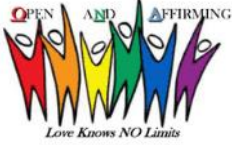
An Open and Affirming Church

All Are Welcome



“To Know the Heart of Jesus is to Know the Heart of God”

May 5, 2024 • 10:00 am



All are Welcome Here!

This is not just a slogan. At FCC, we truly believe that all are welcome. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome to join us here. Whether your faith feels strong or you are in the process of searching and questioning, you are welcome to join us here. If you are otherly-abled, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, non-binary, transgendered or questioning, you are welcome to join us here.

Whether you have been a regular at church or have never been to church, you are welcome to join us either in person or virtually. We openly welcome people of all backgrounds, ages, and perspectives to join us.

We welcome you to journey with us on your faith path and recognize that one person's path will be different than someone else's. As a Christian church, we encourage you to have a relationship with Jesus. You may believe in Jesus as your Savior, your role-model, or the good shepherd guiding you through life. But, whatever your beliefs, we welcome you to join us as we come together virtually and in person to worship together on Sunday mornings. If you are in the Sanctuary with us, we encourage you to fill out the Visitor card and/or Prayer Request card and give it to an Usher as you depart. If you are joining us virtually and have a Prayer Request or would like us to be in touch with you, please feel free to email our Minister (mjacobs@fcc-chappaqua.org). If you'd like to be added to our email list to receive our weekly news, *Thursday's Word*, and other news about FCC, please send your email address to office@fcc-chappaqua.org.

Yes, we have children in worship with us!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Reflecting that spirit, children are always welcome in worship. We strongly believe their participation in all aspects of worship helps them to develop their faith. Children are invited to participate in communion or to receive a blessing during communion, as their parent desires. We have Sunday School for children and youth (typically September through June), and all children are welcome to attend if their parents so choose.

Our Mission Statement

"With open hands and open hearts, we care for each other and the wider world through prayer, connections and compassion. We are compelled by our faith to follow in the path of Jesus Christ, by both listening to and spreading God's love to all people."

Our Vision Statement

"In living our faith and guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we seek to be known as an open and safe place of peaceful reflection and tolerant dialogue. We also seek to lead our community as a voice of hope to foster individual and social compassion."

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The FCC offices are open Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-3:30 pm
In an emergency, Rev. Martha can be reached at 914-584-5469

First Congregational Church
Sunday May 5, 2024 • 10:00 am

Prelude

Three Liturgical Preludes

-OLDROYD

Welcome

Centering Music

Bless Us With Your Grace

-ROBELLARD

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts with a whole rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics 'In our words and in our deeds bless us with Your grace.' are written below the notes. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics 'Bless us with Your grace. Bless us with Your grace.' are written below the notes. A small number '6' is written above the first note of the second staff.

Call to Worship (*responsively*):

One: Let us sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

All: Let us make a joyful noise to all the earth; let us break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

One: God has remembered God's steadfast love and faithfulness to God's children.

All: Let us make a joyful noise. Come let us worship together!

Hymn No. 22

All Creatures of Our God and King

-LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing;
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O rushing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise God, Alleluia!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice, you lights of evening find a voice,
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your God to hear,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blazing fire who lights the night, Providing warmth, enhancing sight,
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

And all forgiven tender hearts, forgiving others, take your part,
Sing praises, Alleluia!

You who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God, who knows your ev'ry care.
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Unison Invocation and Lord's Prayer (*using debts*):

God of light and love, we know that you are with us today. Help us to be open to all that you would have us hear, feel and see. Help us to know that we are always welcome as we are and for all that we are. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who taught us to pray, saying, ***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 for ever and ever. Amen***

Youth Message

Jonathan Riedel

Children's Anthem

This is My Commandment

This is my commandment, that you love one another, that your joy may be full

This is my commandment, that you love one another, that your joy may be full

That your joy may be full, that your joy may be full

This is my commandment, that you love one another, that your joy may be full

Invitation to Confession:

One: When we gather together, we do so to strengthen our faith and our community. When we gather together to confess our shortcomings, we do so knowing that God's grace is infinite, and that we need only confess with our hearts and God will forgive. Therefore, let us come with open hearts and minds to confess our sins and to seek forgiveness from the one who loves us more than we can ever comprehend.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

God, we know that because we are human, we will make mistakes. We don't always think before we speak, we don't always honor others and don't always treat others with unconditional love and acceptance. We seek your forgiveness for those things that we have done that may have hurt others. We know, God, that with you, we can achieve more than we can by ourselves.

A Moment for Silence and Personal Prayer

Words of Assurance (*responsively*):

One: To all who seek forgiveness through confession of sin and commitment to change, God responds with mercy and grace.

All: In God's resurrecting power, we are lifted up and given renewed strength and hope. Let forgiveness give us new faith. May our lives be living witnesses to God's work in our world. Praise God, we are forgiven.

Passing of Christ's Peace (*responsively*):

One: With gratitude and love, let us now greet each other – either in person or virtually - and pass our tidings of peace. May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Scriptures

Psalm 98

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

The Gospel of John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Hymn

Thy Word

-THY WORD

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Homily

"To Know the Heart of Jesus is to Know the Heart of God"

Rev. Martha

Prayers of Our People

The Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

-ALTHOUSE

Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Unison Prayer of Consecration:

Loving God, through the resurrection you express a forgiveness grand and generous. You affirm the value of life in a manner both gracious and bold. As recipients of your forgiveness, we offer ourselves and all of the gifts we bring. Use them, we pray, to care for those in need and to inspire in us a renewal of your Spirit. Life-giving God, accept our gratitude and our gifts. In the matchless name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Hymn No. 425

Let Us Break Bread Together

-LET US BREAK BREAD

Let us break bread together on our knees
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees
let us drink wine together on our knees.

Refrain

Let us praise God together on our knees
let us praise God together on our knees.

Refrain

Holy Communion

Invitation

One: God is with you

All: And also with you!

One: Let us lift up our hearts

All: We give thanks to God who meets us where we are.

Thanksgiving and Praise

Words of Institution

Prayer of the Holy Spirit

Sharing the Bread and Cup (all bread is gluten free and we serve grape juice)

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks

Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the fruits of this Holy Communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. (2x)

And now let the weak say "I am strong";
let the poor say "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us. (2x)

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give
thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. (2x)

And now let the weak say "I am strong";
let the poor say "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us. (2x)

Give thanks.

Benediction

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in D Major



Today's loose collection will be added to the Deacons Assistance Fund which assists members, friends or neighbors, who have a current financial problem which might be overcome or diminished by caring financial help.

We thank all who have participated in our morning worship service and in the auxiliary functions.

- Ed McLaren is our Host Deacon and Communion Manager
 - Katy Cates is Assisting with Communion
 - Sue Hacker is our Liturgist
- Ed McLaren and Bill Swenson are our Ushers
 - Betsy Jones is hosting Sunday Fellowship

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Ed and Dawn McLaren



Please join us for Sunday Fellowship in Centennial Hall



Calendar



TODAY Sunday, May 5

Luke's Pantry

Community Yard Sale (Stage, L)

10:00 am First Sunday w/Communion
(S/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

11:30 am Local Church Discernment
Committee meeting (MR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Monday, May 6

Community Yard Sale (Stage, L)

Teacher Appreciation Week

9:15 am Play Care

1:00 pm Play Care Enrichment class (C)

4:00-5:15 pm Soccer Shots (lawn)

Tuesday, May 7

Community Yard Sale (Stage, L)

Teacher Appreciation Week

9:15 am Play Care

1:00 pm All Staff meeting (MR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Wednesday, May 8

Community Yard Sale (Stage, L)

Teacher Appreciation Week

9:15 am Play Care

7:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 2 (CH)

Thursday, May 9

Community Yard Sale (Stage, L)

Teacher Appreciation Week

9:15 am Play Care

9:30 am-12:30 pm Play Care gym class (CH)

7:15-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

Friday, May 10

Community Yard Sale (Stage, L)

Teacher Appreciation Week

9:15 am Play Care

Saturday, May 11

Community Yard Sale (Stage, L)

9:00 am-12:00 pm Soccer Shots (lawn)

7:30 pm Mt. Kisco AA (MR)

NEXT Sunday, May 12

Mother's Day

Community Yard Sale (Stage, L)

10:00 am Worship (S/YouTube)

11:15 am Sunday Fellowship (CH)

7:30 pm AA (CH)

