

*First Congregational Church*

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS



### **Our Purpose Statement**

It is our purpose to joyfully celebrate Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives; to respect one another in love, actively seeking and embracing those who wish to grow with us in faith, hope and love; to follow the example of Jesus, as we minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the community.

*Through service we flourish.*



*The First Congregational Church in Worcester*  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Easter Sunday*

*April 9, 2023*

*You are invited to a time of quiet preparation during the Prelude*

Prelude

*Laus Et Perennis Gloria ~ Gallus*  
*Solemn Processional ~ Strauss/arr. Zabel*  
*Celebration Fanfare ~ Callahan*

Ringling of the Chimes

Call to Worship

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

In awe of the power of love, we come to celebrate our crucified and risen Lord.

**In joy, we come to raise our alleluias of praise to our Risen Savior.**

The grave could not contain our Christ and this day cannot contain our joy! For Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

**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.**

\*Hymn of Adoration ~ #182

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

Responsive Reading

*Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

**Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."**

The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

**There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;**  
the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."  
**I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.**  
The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.  
**Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.**  
This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.  
**I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**  
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.  
**This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

*Joe Charles LaRiviere*

*Son of Shelly Hoyle  
Godson of Ciara Hoyle*

Introduction

Promises of the Parent/Godparent

Promises of the Congregation

Blessing the Waters & Act of Baptism

Baptismal Hymn

*Down by the Jordan (vs. 4)*

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.

Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?

This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"

Let's take the good news and share it!

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Prayer for the Newly Baptized

Gifts for the Newly Baptized

Covenanting of New Members

*Shelly Hoyle & Deb Holmes*

Congregational Response

**We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of the risen Savior.**

Sharing of Announcements, Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

*He is Lord*

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

New Testament Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Giving of our Offerings

Offertory

*Trumpet Tune in G ~ Bankson*

\*Doxology

*Nettleton*

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,  
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:  
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;  
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us. May our time, treasure, and talent be magnified and multiplied for your work of blessing in our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn ~ *Insert*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Hearts to Heaven*

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:  
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;  
he who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:  
see the ancient powers of evil in confusion and retreat;  
once he died, and once was buried: now he lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ the world's Redeemer, whom we worship and adore.

Christ is risen, we are risen! Set your hearts on things above:  
there in all the Father's glory lives and reigns our King of love;  
hear the word of peace he brings us, see his wounded hands and side;  
now let every wrong be ended, every sin be crucified.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high!  
Alleluia to the Savior who has gained the victory!  
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia to the Triune Majesty!

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18

Meditation

*Be a Blessing*

Rev. Josh Fitterling

\*Sending Hymn ~ #193

*Thine is the Glory*

Thine is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the vict'r'y now for us begun!  
Angels clothed in glory rolled the stone away, leaving only graveclothes where his body lay.  
Thine is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the vict'r'y now for us begun!

Lo! Jesus meets us. Risen from the tomb, lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let our doubting spirits find a voice to sing: Christ who died is living; death has lost its sting.  
Thine is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the vict'r'y now for us begun!

Thine was the suffering, mine the endless life. Sin holds no dominion; love wins over strife.  
What then shall I offer? Songs that never cease! Thou hast won the victory, glorious Prince of Peace!  
Thine is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory now for us begun!

\*Benediction & Benediction Response

*Hymn to Joy*

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:  
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
He, who on the cross a victim, for the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

\*Postlude

*Rigaudon ~ Campra/arr. Sorenson*

*\*Please stand in body, or in spirit.*

*We are glad you joined us today! All are welcome to attend a festive, Easter Coffee Hour  
immediately following our worship service in the Parlor.*

*We welcome the members of this morning's brass quartet, Andrea Ciu, Ben Dailor, Cameron Pagnani  
and Ben Romanow. Thank you for sharing your music with us!*

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***The First Congregational Church in Worcester***  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Doug Perkins, Sexton

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**Prayer Requests**

*Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda and friend Marie Samuelson whom is very ill; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; Sue & Norman Anderson request prayers for their daughter, Melanie Anderson, Sue's brother, Danny Waskevich and their friend, Roger Waite. Dawn & Matt Ahaesy request prayers for Dawn's dad, Francis Lajoie and Gina Ahaesy. The Deacons request prayers for Betty Dalbeck, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, and Joyce & Armand Thienel and Erika Vecsey. Our fervent prayers are with Normairis Rivera's son, Joey as he awaits a kidney transplant. Kristin Olson requests prayers for Mitch Bourque. Prayers for Hampton Bagdasarian who is having trouble with one eye. Prayers for MaryKay McGrail and her cancer diagnosis.*

*If you would like to add a prayer concern or update our list, please email the church office at [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org). Thank you for praying with us!*

### Announcements

**Fellowship ~ April 11 @ 10am ~ We are taking a trip to Worcester Historical Society.** The cost is \$3 per person. All are welcome to join. We will carpool from the church at 10am. When not on an outing, Fellowship meets in the Parlor at 10am on most Tuesdays.

**Open Sanctuary ~ Wednesdays from 2 to 3 ~** Pastor Josh will be in the Sanctuary, a moment each week for folks to spend time in the peace of our sanctuary space to sit, pray, listen, and ponder. Music will be playing and Pastor Josh will be available for anyone who wishes to have a conversation.

**Coffee Hour Hosts Needed ~** We would love to have you help us provide hospitality. Sign-up any Sunday after worship in the Parlor. Thank you!

**Carpet Fund Collection ~** Our new carpeting fund is growing! Please continue to add whatever you can spare to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex. Thank you!



### *Weekly Calendar*

#### **Today**

10:00am	Easter Sunday Service/FCC (Sanctuary)
10:00am	Family Christian Church of God (Hall)
11:00am	Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (Upper level)
11:30am	Trustees Meeting (Conference Room)
6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)

#### **Monday**

7:00pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
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#### **Tuesday**

10:00am	Fellowship Historical Society (meet in parking lot)
6:30pm	AA Meeting (Hall)

#### **Wednesday**

2:00pm	Open Sanctuary (Sanctuary)
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#### **Thursday**

6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
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#### **Saturday**

10:00am	New Hope SDA (Sanctuary & Parlor)
12:00pm	Church of God (Hall)

#### **Sunday**

10:00am	FCC Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00am	Family Christian Church of God (Hall)
11:00am	Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (Upper level)
11:30am	Council Meeting (Conference Room)
6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)