



Sunday, November 19, 2023

**Good Morning and Welcome to
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

***We are here to help people know God,
find freedom, discover their purpose,
and make a difference in the community, near and far.***

***No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey...
You are welcome here.***

Reach Up. Reach Out. Reach In.

PRELUDE

Aletta Wilson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Stefford-Grey

ONE: The time for harvest is close at hand.

What have we done with the gifts God has given us?

ALL: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.

ONE: We praise God for the gifts

and for opportunities for service that they represent.

**ALL: We praise God for all the ways
in which our lives have been blessed.**

ONE: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

ALL: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. AMEN.

GATHERING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal, #717

Let All Things Now Living

Verses 1 & 2

Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator
Triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us,
Protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on
To the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us,
Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining
Forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished,
All fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel
From light into Light.

By law God enforces.
The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit
Obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains,
The rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean
Proclaim God divine.

We, too, should be voicing
Our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration,
A song let us raise:
Till all things now living
Unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest,
Hosanna and praise.

UNISON PRAYER Sue Stefford-Grey

We are often "pack rats", O Lord. You continually pour gifts and blessings into our lives and we hide them away for fear that they might disappear or not be worthy of acclaim. We squander them wastefully on things that are not healthy or helpful to others. We confess that we have not always recognized the talents we have been given. We find it easier to belittle the gifts than to honor the giver. As Jesus reminded his listeners to honor the giver of the gifts by using them to create something better, for healing, for hope in the world; remind us that the message of Jesus is truly pertinent to us today. Forgive us when we have treated it as a nice story. Help us to take the gifts you have given us, to develop them, and use them in ways which will offer healing and hope. In the name of your Christ, we pray. AMEN.

PASS THE PEACE

Rev. Patrick Crocker

HYMN OF GRATITUDE

Chalice Hymnal #695

God Of The Fertile Fields

Verses 1, 2 & 3

God of the fertile fields,
Shaper of earth that yields
Our daily bread;
Forth from your bounteous hand
Come gifts your love has planned,
That all in ev'ry land
Be clothed and fed.

As grows the hidden seed
To fruit that serves our need,
Your reign yet grows.
So let our toil be used,
No gift of yours abused,
No humble task refused
Your love bestows.

We would be stewards true,
Holding in trust from you
All that you give;
Help us in love to share,
Teach us like you to care
For people everywhere,
That all may live.

CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE

Scott Hays-Strom

READING

Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON

Rev. Patrick Crocker

COMMUNION HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #689

We Are Not Our Own

Verses 1, 4 & 6

We are not our own. Earth forms us,
Human leaves on nature's growing vine,
Fruit of many generations,
Seeds of life divine.

Therefore let us make thanksgiving,
and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth, and all things living,
Liturgies of care.

Let us be a house of welcome,
Living stone upholding living stone,
Gladly showing all our neighbors
We are not our own

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Esther Devall

PRAYERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Patrick Crocker

GOING FORTH HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #436

Shalom To You Now

Verse 1

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends,
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

POSTLUDE

Aletta Wilson

UPCOMING SERVICES

Services are at 10:15 am MST unless otherwise noted.

November 26, 2023

Worship Leader: Esther Devall
Offering: Sandy Weber
Communion: Scott Hays-Strom

December 3, 2023

Worship Leader: Karen Holmes
Offering: Kamy McKenzie-Shaw
Communion: Sandy Weber

December 10, 2023

Worship Leader: Melody Burns
Offering: Paul Cook
Communion: Kamy McKenzie-Shaw

December 17, 2023

Worship Leader: Kamy McKenzie-Shaw
Offering: Rev. Patrick Crocker
Communion: Paul Cook

December 24, 2023

Worship Leader: Zanté Garcia
Offering: Deb Cook
Communion: Rev. Patrick Crocker

December 31, 2023

Worship Leader: Hilda McKee
Offering: Scott Hays-Strom
Communion: Deb Cook

Global Ministries is supported by both DOC and UCC.

For more information, visit globalministries.org.

If you are visiting us today, we welcome you!

Please come worship with us again!

About First Christian Church

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we celebrate communion weekly. We welcome all to the Lord's table as God has welcomed us.

We are the United Church of Christ, committed to hearing God's ancient story anew and afresh in our lives and in the world today. Why? Because God is still speaking.

We are an Open and Affirming community. In Christ's example, we want to offer all persons, regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, or gender identity the opportunity to discover and develop their gifts of God's love and service.

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sun.10:15 am** Worship Service *
Thu.9:00 am Spiritual Practices
Thu.3:00 pm Book Discussion (biweekly)

** Our Hybrid Worship Service is held in-person at the church, and live-streamed via [Zoom](#) and [Facebook Live](#).*

MONTHLY EVENTS

- First Sun.** **6:30 pm** Contemplative Worship
First Wed. **6:30 pm** Crafter's Group
Third Wed. **11:30 am** Brown Bag Lunch

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