

THE COMMON COMMISSION (Unison)

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the fainthearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all people, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE BENEDICTION

THE CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Amen” (*Wiltse*)

#320 Chalice Hymnal

THE POSTLUDE

Improvisation

Dr. Joe Utterback, organ

†Please stand in Body or in Spirit.

When exiting the pew, please be careful and STEP DOWN.



For more information about the church and ways to give, please scan this QR code with your phone's camera.

“Love Comes First”



**First Congregational Church
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WORSHIP 10:00 AM

Sunday, May 12, 2024

**The Rev. Edward Rawls, Minister
Dr. Joe Utterback, Director of Music
Mike Nunno, Facilities Manager
Jacquelyn Owens, Youth Ministry Administrator**

**Sandy O’Neill, Church Administrator
Don Coulson, Financial Secretary
Mike Morra, Technology Specialist
Jocelyn Ault, Director of Social Justice
Allison Fay, Chancel Choir Director/Digital Media Specialist
Jane Hartigan and Sue Collazo, Parish Nurses**

May 12, 2024 **Mother's Day** **10:00 AM**

FOR REFLECTION: Psalm 1 Pew Bible pg. 479

Please respect this time of meditation and reflection by remaining quiet for the benefit of those around you who may be in a spirit of prayer.

CHIMING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "The Water is Wide" *arr. Utterback*
Dr. Joe Utterback, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP *Jennifer Nyquist, Deacon*

Leader: As God so love the world, and sacrificed a part of himself to save us,

People: Mothers so loved their families, and sacrificed so much of themselves to make sure they are safe and cared for.

Leader: As Jesus says, "Let the children come to me,"

People: Mothers say, "Let my children, their friends, and the children of others come to me. I will take care of you."

Leader: As Jesus told his disciples from the cross, "She is now your mother,"

People: Mothers say, "I will help you and always be there for you. I will feed you, clothe you, and take care of you. This includes not just you, my child, but anyone you love. Call me anytime."

Leader: Thank You, God, for always being there for us, not just in times of need, hopelessness, and desperation, but in times of joy, celebration, and love.

People: Thank you, mothers, and not just our mothers, but mother-figures, those who took the places of mothers, and the mothers of our church.

†HYMN OF PRAISE "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" #611 Chalice Hymnal

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Leader: Holy One, mother and father to all,
You have given birth to each of us and all creation.
You have nurtured us on the milk of your word.
You embrace us and remind us daily that we matter to you.
You protect us like a mother does her cubs.
We are always on your mind the way our children are always on our minds.
We are so grateful for such love as yours,
and we rest in the promise of your son
that you will never leave us or forsake us.
All we can do is humbly say, "thank You,"
just as our mothers and fathers taught us as children.

All: Thank you, Holy One, for being our God and calling us your children.
Thank you for being here to greet us with open arms.

ANTHEM "Rise Up and Call Her Blessed" *Pepper Choplin*
The Chancel Choir

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER
PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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 and ever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory Sentences

As God so freely offers us the gift of life in Jesus Christ, let us respond with gratitude, offering our lives to God.

Offertory Music "First Love" *Betty Utterback*
Dr. Joe Utterback, piano

†DOXOLOGY #47 Chalice Hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

We give you thanks, O God, for the free and abundant gift of grace in Jesus Christ. Let the simple gift of our lives be a sign of our unending gratitude for undying love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†HYMN "Of Women, and of Women's Hopes We Sing" #686 Chalice Hymnal

THE MESSAGE "Embraced" *Reverend Richard Jenkins*

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 66:13 **Pew Bible pg. 683**

†THE CLOSING HYMN "In Christ There Is No East or West" #687 Chalice Hymnal