



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE LEADER



MAY 24TH, 2020
ASCENSION SUNDAY

Welcome

Wi-Fi Password Welcome!

Please silence your cell phones, but please check-in with our Church App and via social media.

For Parents and Children

Children and youth activities are currently cancelled. Contact Becca@fccmoline.org for how families are staying connected!

FCC Live

Sunday worship is live streamed on Facebook Live and YouTube Live! Search for FCCMoline to connect with us, click like and subscribe to stay up to date!

Sunday Brunch

Sunday Brunch is currently cancelled.

Interested in Membership?

Contact Pastor Craig, call (309)-762-0787 or email craig@fccmoline.org.

Cover Art

Ascension -- Church of St. Elthedreda, London, England

Open and Affirming: fccmoline.org/ona

We are an ONA church, covenanting with all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression or identity. All people are welcome to participate fully in the life of the church, including the rites, sacraments, and leadership of the congregation.

Today from the life of the church

Luke and Acts are a two volume work by the same author, and the first scripture lesson for today is where we come to that understanding. Both works are written to Theophilis - who is either a person or the God loving reader.

Volume one is the life and work of Jesus. Luke in writing a gospel about Jesus takes the same general point of view as Mark and Matthew. The Gospel of John also talks about Jesus, but is different in its point of view. While Luke has a few unique accounts of Jesus' work, and takes more interest in Mary and her family, his narrative about Jesus is one of a few.

Volume two is the beginning of the church. The first section of Acts is the ministry of Peter, the second part of the book is the ministry of Paul. Acts as a book in the Bible about church history, or if you will, the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in the life and ministry of Jesus' followers; Acts is unique in the Bible.

The God is Still Speaking emphasis of our United Church of Christ suggests that there is still a volume three of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church community. And that is what we live out day by day and year by year in the life of our own community of faith. Certainly 2020 is an interesting chapter in that book.

Pastor Michael

Gathering of God's People

PRELUDE

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God has gone up with a merry noise,
our God has gone up with a shout!

**O sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

For God is the Sovereign of all the earth;
sing praises with all your skill.

**God reigns over the nations;
God has taken a seat; enthroned above all.**

*OPENING PRAYER

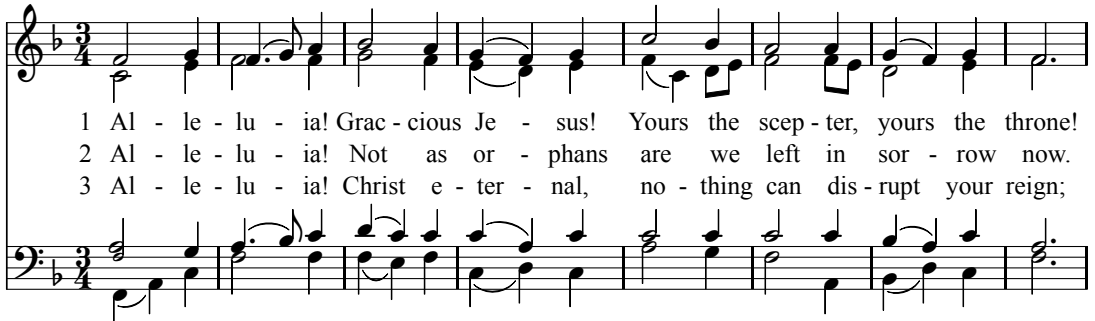
Let us pray: **Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, Christ abides with the Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Sovereign, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

*Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!
(Music on the next page)*

** Indicates when to stand in body or spirit*

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Grac - ious Je - sus! Yours the scep - ter, yours the throne!
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now.
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ e - ter - nal, no - thing can dis - rupt your reign;



Al - le - lu - ia! Yours the tri - umph, yours the vic - to - ry a - lone!
Al - le - lu - ia! You are near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
Al - le - lu - ia! Born of Mar - y, heav'n and earth are your do - main.



Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood;
Though the cloud from sight re - cieved you when the for - ty days were o'er,
Hu - man life you ful - ly en - tered, tend - ing those we count as least,



Je - sus, out of ev - ery na - tion you've re - deemed us by your blood.
shall our hearts for - get your pro - mise, "I am with you ev - er - more."
serv - ing both as Priest and Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood
you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel
from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.
...To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Gloria

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Proclaiming the Good News

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come Holy Spirit, open our minds to see the power of Scripture to give life; enlighten our hearts that we might see Christ in all whom we meet; in the name of the one, holy, and living God, to whom we give all glory. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

ACTS 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

shout to God with a joyful sound.

For the Lord Most High is to be feared:

a great king over all the earth,

who subdues the peoples under us,

and the nations under our feet;

who chooses our inheritance for us,

the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.

God has gone up with a shout,

the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;

sing praises to our king, sing praises.

For God is king of all the earth;

sing praises with a song.

God reigns over the nations;

God is enthroned on high.

The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

II. Romance from *Five Bagatelles, Op.23*, by Gerald Finzi

***GOSPEL**

Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Michael Swartz

***HYMN**

Over My Head
(Music on the next page)

Over My Head

1 O - ver my head I hear mu - sic in the air. O - ver my
 2 O - ver my head I hear sing - ing in the air. O - ver my
 3 O - ver my head I see trou - ble in the air. O - ver my
 4 O - ver my head I see Je - sus in the air. O - ver my

head I hear mu - sic in the air. O - ver my head I hear
 head I hear sing - ing in the air. O - ver my head I hear
 head I see trou - ble in the air. O - ver my head I see
 head I see Je - sus in the air. O - ver my head I see

mu - sic in the air. There must be a God some - where.
 sing - ing in the air. There must be a God some - where.
 trou - ble in the air. There must be a God some - where.
 Je - sus in the air. There must be a God some - where.

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray, **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, forever. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

God has given us the gift of Christ, risen and ascended for the life of the world. Therefore, let us offer our gifts in return, that others may know this glorious news.

OFFERTORY

III. Carol from *Five Bagatelles, Op.23*, by Gerald Finzi

***DOXOLOGY**

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God of all glory and majesty, we give you thanks for the gift of your Son, and his power at work in our lives and our gifts. Bless these gifts for the benefits they afford in bringing life to others in your name. Bless our lives that we may be your witnesses to the end of the earth as we love and serve you, O God most high. Amen.

Sending in Mission

***HYMN OF SENDING**

*The Church of Christ, in Every Age
(Music on the next page)*

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

- by Alan Guss

Let Him be the good you come to, let this be the time and place.
When you need Him, He will be here; take shelter, take shelter.

*Let Him be the calm and peaceful, let Him be the balm of days.
Spirit in us, Spirit of us, take shelter, take shelter.

Daily we face all the world's disarray,
and forget we have peace for the asking.
Hatred stirs up strife, love covers all offenses; seek shelter.

**repeat text for final refrain*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

*The altar flowers are given to
the glory of God and in loving memory of
Charles and Louise Llewellyn,
Fred and Helen Teufel and all loved ones.*

Given by: Charles Wesley and Susan Llewellyn

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing

The first system of music is in treble and bass clefs, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of two staves of music with lyrics underneath.

6 change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system, with lyrics underneath.

11 her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.

The third system of music concludes the piece with a double bar line, with lyrics underneath.

SERVING TODAY

Musicians

Audra Bailey, piano
Carl Collins, clarinet

Mason Moss
Maureen Holmes

Lector /Liturgist

Wynn Family

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Craig Jan-McMahon
Senior Pastor
craig@fccmoline.org

Rev. Michael Swartz
Associate Pastor
michael@fccmoline.org

Maureen Holmes
Chancel Choir Director
maureen@fccmoline.org

Mason Moss
Organist/Pianist
mason@fccmoline.org

Gail Glockhoff-Long
Campanella Ringers Director
gail@fccmoline.org

Becca Peterson
Director of Family Ministry
becca@fccmoline.org

Sara Otta
Financial Manager
sara@fccmoline.org

Jennifer Dailing
Office Manager & Bookkeeping
jennifer@fccmoline.org

Amber Moore - Director of
Marketing & Communications
amber@fccmoline.org

Wes Llewellyn
Fellowship Coordinator
wes@fccmoline.org

Amanda Peterson
Red Wagon Preschool Director

Custodians
Mike DeToye

Harleigh Jones
Nursery Coordinator
nursery@fccmoline.org



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gathered to Share God's Love