

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Partners in Christ's Service since 1890
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Youth-Led Worship Service
September 12, 2021**

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Jake Bresnahan
Charlie Carpenter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alex Stone

At First Church, we welcome theological diversity. Please feel free to substitute the liturgical language of your choice as you worship.

***OPENING HYMN**

“To God Be the Glory”

To God be the glory great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life gate that all may go in

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood
To every believer the promise of God
The vilest offender who truly believes
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory great things He has done

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder our transport when Jesus we see

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory, great things He has done

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory, we will give You all the glory
We will give Him the glory great things He has done

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nick Bresnahan
Sam Rosen

Nick Bresnahan: *Today is a day of good news! The Lord has called us here.*

All: Lord, ready our hearts to receive you.

Sam Rosen: *Let us open our hearts to receive God's light so we can see beyond the darkness.*

All: Lord, ready our hearts to receive you.

Nick Bresnahan: *Instead of giving in, let us turn to God's abundant grace and join others in sharing the good news.*

Sam Rosen: *Led by faith we are gathered here to learn, give thanks and receive.*

All: We ready out hearts to worship. Amen

*PASSING THE WAVE OF PEACE

Keil Rosen

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

"We Lift Up Our Voices"

Cataleya Jackson
Vivienne Sammis

As part of this morning's praises, all children will remain in the sanctuary for worship.

MUSIC MINISTRY

"To the One" by Pardo, Palmer, Parker
Michelle Maiers, Meg McGarry, Kevin Loeper

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Robert Buckner, II

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Meg McGarry, vocals

SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 7:3-9 (NRSV)

Olivia Scumaci

Now there were four leprous men outside the city gate, who said to one another, "Why should we sit here until we die? If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine

is in the city, and we shall die there; but if we sit here, we shall also die. Therefore, let us desert to the Aramean camp; if they spare our lives, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.” So they arose at twilight to go to the Aramean camp; but when they came to the edge of the Aramean camp, there was no one there at all. For the Lord had caused the Aramean army to hear the sound of chariots, and of horses, the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, “The king of Israel has hired the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to fight against us.” So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys leaving the camp just as it was, and fled for their lives. When these leprous men had come to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent, ate and drank, carried off silver, gold, and clothing, and went and hid them. Then they came back, entered another tent, carried off things from it, and went and hid them.

Then they said to one another, “What we are doing is wrong. This is a day of good news; if we are silent and wait until the morning light, we will be found guilty; therefore let us go and tell the king’s household.”

SERMON

“This Ain’t It”

Rev. Robert Buckner, II

INVITATION TO GIVE

Jack Rosen

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Nik Reshamwala
Morgan Scumaci

Offertory

“Let it Be” by Lennon/McCartney
Meg McGarry

*Doxology

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

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Robert Buckner, II

*CLOSING HYMN

#614 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Robert Buckner, II

*POSTLUDE

Please stand if you are able. Songs and prayers printed in **bold are to be recited out loud together. Please silence your cell phones. Thank you.*

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Rev. Robert Buckner, II, Guest Minister

Martha Mendoza, Director of Christian Education

Jim Molina, Director of Music, Organist and Pianist

Dave Benziger, Guitarist

Meg McGarry, Michelle Maiers, Kevin Loeper, Vocalists

Prayer List

Luke Brigman

Janet Rowe

Louis Reed

Bob Tracy

Mary Loss

Amy Lynch

Phyllis Crosley

Angela Burrell

Basia Rudy

First Church Announcements and Upcoming Events

Welcome Rev. Robert E. Buckner, II!

This morning we will enjoy Rev. Robert E. Buckner, II in-person. Earlier this year, we had the honor of working with him as our guest speaker for our zoom MLK forum which was so well received by our congregation and our community.

Rev. Robert E. Buckner II, serves as the Associate Pastor of Adult Education and Formation at Covenant United Church of Christ in South Holland, Illinois. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Western Illinois University and a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary.

Beyond academic pursuits, he has been a guest lecturer, itinerant preacher and an author. His encounters with diverse believers has led him to draw on the simplicity of the Word, while digging for the richness that can only come with a true encounter with Christ. His writing, preaching and teaching seeks to draw out the undiscovered personal needs of the people, to develop an unencumbered personal relationship with God.

Rev. Buckner is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Rev. Buckner is the husband of the former Mary Elizabeth Francies and they are proud parents of sons, Caleb and Micah.

Pastoral Search Presentation



The Pastoral Search Committee would like to invite all members to stay after the service **next week, Sunday, September 19**, for a presentation detailing the results of our Congregation Survey.