



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**  
United Church of Christ  
*Partners in Christ's Service since 1890*

November 21, 2021

---

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Martha Mendoza

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

**\*Opening Hymn**

#714 For the Fruit of All Creation

**\*Passing the Wave of Peace**

**Children's Message**

"Crown Him King"

Martha Mendoza

**Singing the Children Out**

**Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
May the love of God surround you  
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

**Music Ministry**

"Old Church Choir" by Zach Williams  
*Nick Drahos and Meg McGarry, duet*

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Rev. Terry Gallagher

**Eternal God,  
You who rule over all of us with justice and care,  
We your people confess that we do not submit ourselves to your rule,  
That we do not always participate in your reign of equity and integrity,  
That we have not followed the example you set forth.**

**Instead we often place our trust in leaders who let us down,  
And in our own flawed leadership of others.**

**Lead us, Christ our Sovereign,  
And set us on the path to righteous rule in all that we do. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Rev. Terry Gallagher

We who are dependent upon our divine ruler  
have Christ's example ever before us,  
to give us guidance and hope.  
Take heart that you are forgiven  
and may return to that example again

**Pastoral Prayer**

St. Francis Prayer of Peace

Rev. Terry Gallagher

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer** (sung)

Meg McGarry, vocals

**Scripture**

John 18:33-37

Dorothy Hamby

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

**Sermon** "Why Were We Born?" *Purpose* Rev. Terry Gallagher  
**Invitation To Give** Rev. Terry Gallagher

### **Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

Offertory "Stars" by Schonberg  
*Al Thurkow, vocals*

\*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. Terry Gallagher

\*Closing Hymn

#718 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

\*Benediction

Rev. Terry Gallagher

\*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. Terry Gallagher, Guest Minister  
Martha Mendoza, Director of Christian Education  
Keil Rosen & Olivia Scumaci, Sunday School Teachers

### **This Morning's Music**

---

Jim Molina, Director of Music, Pianist and Organist  
Dave Benziger, Guitarist  
Meg McGarry, Nicholas Drahos, and Al Thurkow, Vocalists

### **Prayer List**

---

Angela Burrell	Ed Eckert	Janet Rowe	Bob Tracy
Phyllis Crosley	Mary Loss	Basia Rudy	
Dan Dallas	Louis Reed	Joyce Stevens	

## **First Church Announcements**

---

### ***Welcome Rev. Dr. Terry Gallagher***

Rev. Dr. Terry Gallagher is an ordained minister in the UCC. Educated originally as an engineer, Terry, following a 30-year career as an industrial manufacturing executive answered the Call to Ministry. In response to the escalating global crisis of unsustainable economics and ecological destruction, he has focused his ministry on providing faith based ecological-justice education, advocacy & action.

His current workshop series focuses on exploring the 3 urgent tasks that we must process through to respond to the Climate Crisis: Reality; Grief & Hope. His workshops are a combination of his skills as story-teller of real life experiences, Faith Journey reflections, a bit of Science & Technology, some positive actions that you can implement in your daily life and an exploration of just what is God calling people of faith to do in response to the greatest crisis human civilization has ever encountered. Numerous digital based resources including several video series ranging from as few as 6 episodes to as many as 40 episodes are available at no charge via his non-profit ministry website: [www.SustainingCreation.org](http://www.SustainingCreation.org) or on the Sustaining Creation Face Book page.

### ***Next Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021– Advent Cantata “Come, Messiah!”***

Next Sunday, Nov. 28, the Music Ministry will be starting the Advent season with an Advent Cantata, “Come, Messiah!” put together by Jim Molina. This musical event will include Advent Music that will be performed by our Chancel Choir and a host of amazing instrumentalists. Jim Molina will lead this all-star Music Ministry in a compelling and seasonal musical performance that will highlight our Advent Season. A special offering will be presented to support the Music Ministry and its programming. Join us as Rev. Robert Buckner II leads us in an Advent message that is sure to warm our hearts this Christmas Season.

### ***Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas Advent Study***

Don't let the busyness of the season get the best of you! Join us on the following Wednesdays for dinner and an enlightening discussion in our beautiful parlor. No reservations are required.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and Discussion & Study beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 1st    Preparing the Way  
Wednesday, December 8th    Spiritual Practices During Advent  
Wednesday, December 15th    Advent Traditions and Practices

We look forward to having you be a part of this time together.