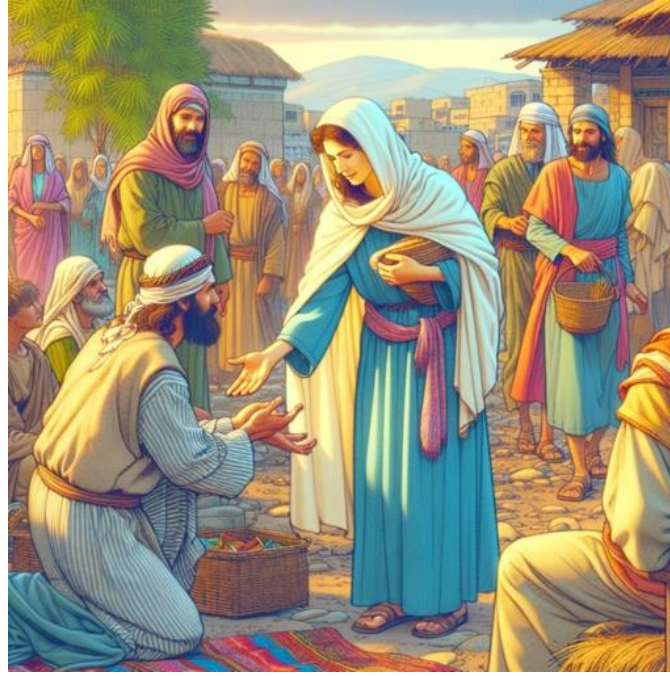




To share faith, hope & love with all
First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

36363 Center Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville, OH 44039
440-327-2921 ~ www.fccalive.org



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May 11, 2025

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

If you would like to know more about our church, please contact us at info@fccalive.org

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Liturgy inspiration this week has come from the *UCC's Worship Ways*.

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## **SERVICE of WORSHIP AND PRAISE**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter / Mothering Sunday**

***\*Indicates "All who are comfortable, please rise in body or spirit"***

### ***WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE***

**Prelude** "Clair de Lune" – Claude Debussy

**Ringling of the Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Choral Introit** "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Amidst destruction,

**All: blessed be the creators.**

One: Amidst despair,

**All: blessed be the nurturers of connection.**

One: Amidst cynicism,

**All: blessed be those practicing hope.**

One: Amidst cruelty,

**All: blessed be the gentle.**

One: Amidst death-dealing systems,

**All: blessed be those with reverence for life.**

One: The God of New Life blesses those who love compassion and justice.

**All: Let us worship God together.**

**\*Opening Hymn** #384 vs. 1 & 2 "This Is My [Mother's] World"

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Prayer of Transformation and New Life** (*in unison*)

Holy One, we tire easily. There is so much to be done in the world that we often get tired before we even begin to do the work you call us to. Help us to show up like your disciple Tabitha, "who never tired of doing kind things or giving to charity." May her ancestral memory be a boon to our spirits. Amen.

**\*Words of Grace** (*in unison*)

Receive this good news: God is always with us. Surrounding us, calling us forward into the interconnected web of creation, inviting us to rely on one another for the work ahead. We are abundantly loved. Thanks be to God!

**Ministry of Music** "Brighten the Corner Where You Are"

All the Men

***WE HEAR GOD'S WORD***

**Scripture Reading** Acts 9:36-42

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple, a woman named Tabitha—"Dorcas," in Greek—who never tired of doing kind things or giving to charity. 37 About this time she grew ill and died. They washed her body and laid her out in an upstairs room. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples sent two couriers to Peter with the urgent request, "Please come over to us without delay." 39 Peter set out with them as they asked. Upon his arrival, they took him upstairs to the room. All the townswomen who had been widowed stood beside him weeping, and showed him the various garments Dorcas had made when she was still with them. 40 Peter first made everyone go outside, then knelt down and prayed. Turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, stand up." She opened her eyes, then looked at Peter and sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her to her feet. The next thing he did was to call

in those who were believers—including the widows—to show them that she was alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa and, because of it, many came to believe in Jesus Christ.

One: The Word that is a lamp to our feet and a light unto our path.

**All: Thanks be to God who is still speaking.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

**Sermon**

Pastor Kearstin (she/her)

**\*Hymn of the Day** vs 1 & 4 "When Peace, Like a River"

Deacons will collect prayer request cards during this hymn.

***WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING***

**Prayers of the People & Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer** *You are invited to pray in the language & tradition of your choice.*

*Our Father/Creator, 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/trespasses.*

*As we forgive our debtors/those who trespass against us,*

*and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,*

*for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

**Prayer Response** "Surely the Presence"

**Words of Offering**

Labor organizer Mother Jones famously said, "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living." So let us grieve all that needs to be grieved and fight for all that needs to be fought for. We collect our gifts and offerings today, that it may be so. Let us give joyfully and generously.

**Offertory** "For the Beauty of the Earth"

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication** *(in unison)*

Holy One, we pray for the dead – those whose lives inherently have meaning. Those who died too soon. Those who suffered needlessly. Those who the living miss every day. Holy One, we pray for the living – that they may know wellness in the here and now. That our shared efforts and resources may contribute to our collective freedom. Amen.

## ***WE GO TO SERVE***

**\*Sending Hymn** #21 vs. 1 & 2 "How Great Thou Art"

**\*Taking the Light into the World**

### **\*Benediction**

Rooted in practice, held in community, blessed by those who have gone before us – we go forth honoring God and each other with our lives. Go blessed, Beloveds.

**Choral Benediction** "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

**Postlude** "Festival Finale" – Malcolm Archer

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### **Announcements**

**Liturgists Needed:** Liturgists are needed for May 25, June 15 & 29. Sign up sheets are available in the front and back of the sanctuary.

**Got Junk?** Sell it at our Junk in the Trunk event! Junk in the Trunk is like a flea market and rummage sale rolled into one! Sell your "treasures" from your trunk and parking space on Saturday, May 17 from 10 am to 2 pm. Registration forms are available on the table at the front of the sanctuary.

**Fellowship time:** We need people to sign up to oversee fellowship time after the worship services. There are sign-up sheets on the table in the front of the sanctuary, in the narthex, and on the bulletin board in fellowship hall.

**Dining to Donate:** The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a Dine to Donate event on Thursday, June 5 at the Avon Applebee's to help fund our youth mission trip to Lotts Creek. Flyers to present at the restaurant will be made available later in May.

**Pride Parade:** Join us in representing our church in the Pride in the CLE Parade on June 7 in downtown Cleveland. The parade kicks off at 11 am! Mark your calendars now! More info coming soon!!

**Spring Clean Up:** If you're not able to walk in the Pride parade, join us on Saturday, June 7 beginning at 9 am for our annual church spring clean-up. We will be cleaning up the flower beds, planting flowers, and laying mulch. Bring your favorite gardening tools with you. If you don't want to work outside, there are opportunities to clean up inside the church. Contact Roy Dreger or Jack Fitts for more information.

#### **Pastor**

Rev. Kearstin Bailey

[info@fccalive.org](mailto:info@fccalive.org)

#### **Christian Ed Director**

Mary Karlovec

[www.fccalive.org](http://www.fccalive.org)

#### **Music Director**

Barb Habecker

<https://www.facebook.com/firstconguccnr>

### **This Week's Events**

|           |                                                                                                  |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Today     | Mother's Day<br>Worship service, 10:30 am                                                        |
| May 12    | Council meeting, 7 pm                                                                            |
| May 14    | Handbell choir practice, 6:30 pm / Choir practice, 7:30 pm                                       |
| May 16    | Newsletter articles due                                                                          |
| May 17    | Junk in the Trunk, 10 am – 2 pm                                                                  |
| May 17-23 | Pastor Kearstin out of town                                                                      |
| May 18    | Worship service, 10:30 am (Carla Valles guest speaker)<br>Fellowship hour, after worship service |



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