



To share faith, hope & love with all
First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
36363 Center Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville, OH 44039
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May 25, 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 Power of God Annual Resource & the Episcopal Church's 78th GC Materials.*

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**SERVICE of WORSHIP AND PRAISE**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

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

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

**Prelude** "Ashokan Farewell" and Sullivan Ballou Letter

Read by Roy Dreger

**Ring of the Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Choral Introit** "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"

## **Five Minutes of Kindness**

### **Strengthen the Church Mission Moment**

#### **\*Call to Worship**

One: God, maker of marvels,

**All: You weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship.**

One: Your unifying love is revealed

**All: in the interdependence of relationships and in the complex world You have made.**

One: Your goodness is revealed

**All: in the cyclical dance of earth, air, fire, and water.**

One: Your creativity is revealed

**All: in the beauty and diversity of creation.**

One: The God of All Life blesses those who understand the interdependence of creation.

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

**\*Opening Hymn** #419 vs. 1 & 3 "God of Our [Parents]"

#### **\*Passing of the Peace**

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

Creating God, we thirst for power and not for righteousness. We are quick to show our dominance but hide our dependence. We take what we want without thinking of what we should give back. Transform our hearts and minds so that we might transform the world that we live in. Amen.

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

The God who creates in love has the power to heal, restore, renew and resurrect. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and renewed. This is the Good News! Thanks be to God!

**Ministry of Music** "Love Grows Here" – Don Besig

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

**Scripture Reading** Genesis 2:10-15

10 A river flows through Eden to water the garden, after which it branches into four tributaries. 11 The first stream is named Pishon, or "Spreader." It circles through Havilah, a land rich in gold, 12 gold of the highest quality. There are gum resins there, and precious onyx stones. 13 The second stream is named Gihon, or "Gusher," and it flows through the entire land of Cush. 14 The third stream is the Tigris, which borders Assyria on the east. The fourth stream the Euphrates. 15 Then God took the earth creature and settled it in the garden of Eden so that it might cultivate and care for the land.

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.

### **Reflection**

Beth Dornan (she/her)

**\*Hymn of the Day** #353 vs. 1 & 2 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

### ***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** "Be Glorified"

### **Words of Offering**

Let us gather our resources joyfully and generously, joining the trees of the forest, the flowers of the field, and the very soil from which we have been made in giving praise to God and nourishing one another.

**Offertory** Theme from *Schindler's List* – John Williams

### **\*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)*

Creator of All, use the gifts we have gathered today to give new life to your world. Fill us anew with the energy to love as you have called us to love, so that we may continue to steward our resources well to care for the Earth. Amen.

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

**\*Sending Hymn** #422 vs. 1 & 2 "O God of Every Nation"

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

### **\*Benediction**

Meister Eckhart writes that we should "Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God, and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God." Remember that you, like the caterpillar and the field mouse, you too are a creature of God and are filled with God's Spirit. Go blessed, Beloveds.

**Choral Benediction** "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" vs. 4

**Postlude** "God Bless America" – Irving Berlin

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Announcements

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.

Bathroom "shower": To make our church more welcoming to all the diverse groups that use this space, we're having a "shower" to collect personal hygiene and toiletry supplies to keep in our restrooms. Think: pads, tampons, disposable changing pads/puppy pads, deodorant spray, Tide to Go sticks, smell good soaps, facial cleansing wipes, unscented lotion, hand sanitizer, diapers, baby wipes. Donations will be collected at the church on June 1.

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 soon.

Pride Parade: Join us in representing our church in the Pride in the CLE Parade on June 7 in downtown Cleveland. We will meet at 10 am downtown in Public Square. The march steps off at 11 am. We recommend using public transportation to get downtown. The Living Water Association is coordinating with the Cleveland LGBT Center to ensure all UCC folks can march together as one delegation.

FCC has Pride shirts! FCC now has an online store where you can buy shirts for Pride 2025! We have a selection of t-shirt options that you can purchase and they will be sent directly to your home. If you want your shirt to arrive in time for Cleveland Pride, you should order by May 18th! Copy and paste this link in your web browser: <https://www.bonfire.com/store/fcc-north-ridgeville/>

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

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This Week's Events

Today	Worship service, 10:30 am Deacons meeting, after worship service
May 26	Memorial Day – OFFICE CLOSED
May 31	Confirmation day camp, 10 am – 5 pm
June 1	Outreach meeting, 9 am Worship service, Communion, Clangy change collection, 10:30 am Fellowship hour, after worship service



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