

Sunday, February 23, 2025



Reach Up

Reach Out

Reach In

We are here to help people know God,
find freedom, discover their purpose,
and make a difference in the community, near and far.

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

You are welcome here.

Welcome to First Christian Church



ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE.....Aletta Wilson

CALL TO WORSHIP.....Debby Johnson

Please join in the responsive Call to Worship, with everyone giving voice to the bold text as found in this bulletin and on the screens.

Jesus teaches us, “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” But who are the others?

Our enemies and friends, family and strangers.

Jesus teaches us, “Be merciful as your Father is merciful.” But what is mercy?

To act with compassion, to help without expecting anything in return.

Jesus teaches us, “Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” But how do we forgive?

By recognizing enemies, friends, family, strangers, and ourselves as people in need of compassion.

Let us worship God, who loves us and empowers us to love one another with mercy and compassion.

Come, let us worship!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Gather Us In.....Chalice Hymnal, #284
Verses: 1 & 4

Verse 1

Here in this place, the new light is streaming,
shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Verse 4

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven,
light years away, here in this place the new light is shining;
now is God present, and now is the day.

UNISON PRAYER.....Debby Johnson

Holy Jesus,
You call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not. You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us. We want the easy way, but You have given us the hard path. Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You, to allow ourselves at times to stumble, to live into the hard way so that we might fully experience Your love, grace, and peace in this world, by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

PASS THE PEACE.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

FAITH IN ACTION.....Steve Chavita, El Caldito

PRAYER TIME.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

HYMN OF GRATITUDE

The Gift of Love.....Chalice Hymnal, #526

Verses: 1,2,3

Verse 1

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Verse 2

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love with in,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Verse 3

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE.....Scott Hays-Strom

SPECIAL MUSIC.....Joyful Noise Choir

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me, African American Spiritual

SCRIPTURE.....Luke 6:27-38

SERMON.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

Unbroken Circle



COMMUNION HYMN

Now We Come Before

God's Presence.....Chalice Hymnal, Hymn #410,

Verses: 1,2,3,4

Verse 1

Now we come before God's presence,
full of joy with songs of praise
for the cup and bread life giving,
healing all our sinful ways.

Verse 2

Bread of life, so freely given,
keeping hungry spirits fed.
We, in turn, with great thanksgiving,
freely share our worldly bread.

Verse 3

Cup of sorrow, cup of joy,
filling souls that come in thirst,
like-wise, we shall fill the cups of those
who thirst throughout the earth.

Verse 4

Love beyond all comprehension,
offered through this feast divine,
we can only go in joy to share
with all our bread and wine.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST.....Esther Devall

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BENEDICTION.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

GOING FORTH HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other.....Chalice Hymnal, #487

Verses: 1 & 4

Verse 1

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Verse 4

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord free us, make us one!

POSTLUDE.....Aletta Wilson

UPCOMING SERVICES

Services are at 10:15 am MST unless otherwise noted.

March 2, 2025

Worship Leader: Melody Burns

Offering: Zanté García

Communion: Scott Hays-Strom

March 9, 2025

Worship Leader: Jeanne Knotts

Offering: TBD

Communion: Zanté García

March 16, 2025

Worship Leader: Deb Cook

Offering: Paul Cook

Communion: TBD

March 23, 2025

Worship Leader: Melissa

McKenzy-Shaw

Offering: Debby Johnson

Communion: Paul Cook

March 30, 2025

Worship Leader: Hilda McKee

Offering: Melissa McKenzie-Shaw

Communion: Debby Johnson

April 6, 2025

Worship Leader: Karen Holmes

Offering: Scott Hays-Strom

Communion: Melissa McKenzie-Shaw

ABOUT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we celebrate communion weekly. We welcome all to the Lord's table as God has welcomed us.

We are the United Church of Christ, committed to hearing God's ancient story anew and afresh in our lives and in the world today. Why? Because God is still speaking.

We are an Open and Affirming community. In Christ's example, we want to offer all persons, regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, or gender identity the opportunity to discover and develop their gifts of God's love and service.

If you are visiting us today, we welcome you!

Please come worship with us again!

Global Ministries is supported by both DOC and UCC.

For more information, visit globalministries.org.

To assist with global crisis relief efforts, please visit:

DoC: www.weekofcompassion.org

UCC: [www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-](http://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/)

[ministries/global-hope/](http://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/)

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Bible Study**.....Sunday, 9 AM
Worship Service*.....Sunday, 10:15 AM
Men’s Breakfast (at University IHOP).....Wednesday, 9AM
Spiritual Practices.....Thursday, 9 AM

** Our Hybrid Worship Service is held in-person at the church, and live-streamed via [Zoom](#) and [Facebook Live](#).*

MONTHLY EVENTS

- Celebrate Birthdays of the Month**.....First Sunday, 11:30 AM
Contemplative Worship.....First Sunday, 6:30 PM
Crafter’s Group.....First Wednesday, 6:30 PM
Potluck.....Third Sunday, 11:30 AM
Brown Bag Lunch.....Third Wednesday, 11:30 AM
Discussion Group.....Fourth Wednesday, 6:30 PM



STAY IN TOUCH

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Website: www.fcclc.org
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