

AT HOME WORSHIP SERVICE

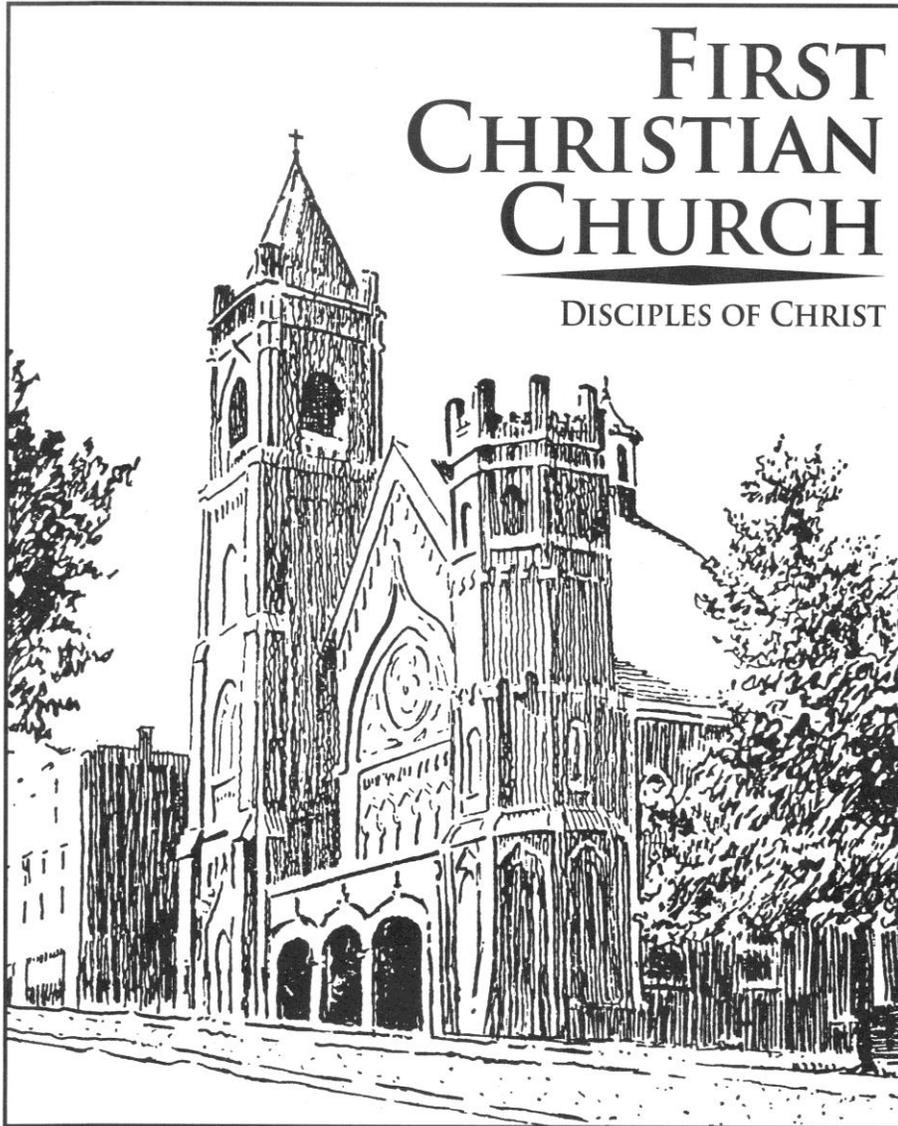
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

111 North Fifth St.

Murray, Kentucky 42071

270-753-3824

fccmurray@gmail.com



The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (Psalm 18:2, NRSV)

At-Home Worship Celebration



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THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER TO CELEBRATE

Creating a Holy Space: *Sing or meditate upon the hymn “Holy Ground”*

♪ *We are standing on holy ground,*
and I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now,
we are standing in his presence on holy ground. ♪

Receiving the Light *(please light a candle as a reminder that you are surrounded by the light and love of Christ)*

Welcome: Sisters and Brothers in Christ, the Apostle Paul reminds us that we are the body of Christ and are part of one another. Remember that whether we are face-to-face, or doing worship having been emailed prayer requests, scripture, and a message to read, or are looking at a screen, we are meeting together as part of that body and serving the God whom we know through Jesus with the help of God’s Holy Spirit within us. No matter where you are right now you are not only part of the Body of Christ but you also are an important part of our church family, and I am so glad you are participating. May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Opening Hymn *(sing or meditate on the words of a hymn)*

THE PEOPLE OF GOD LIFT UP THEIR HEARTS

MORNING PRAYER

Sharing of Concerns (*see email*)

Time of Silent Meditation (*holding prayer rock*)

Prayer: Loving God, we come before you now from living rooms, and seats at kitchen tables, and perhaps our porches or backyards, either as individuals or as families, to offer up our praise and our concerns. In doing so we stand on the promises from scripture that you are with us, that you are our rock, our fortress, our deliverer. It is you in whom we take our refuge during this anxious and uncertain time as countries around the world struggle to keep a viral pandemic from overpowering us. We know that the greatest way that it does that is through unleashing such fear within our hearts that we become paralyzed, make bad decisions, and lose hope. We pray for your peace that passes all understanding so that we might think clearly and act wisely and with compassion. We recognize that you call us at this time to be each other's keepers but that this is made difficult when we must keep social distance from each other. Even so we pray that you would stir our hearts and minds with ways that we can help each other through phone calls, or dropping off meals at doorsteps, and offering help in ways that would not compromise anyone's health or safety. Help us, God, to function as your Body on earth.

No matter how difficult this time may seem, we are surrounded at every moment by countless blessings, including each new breath we take as the season of spring begins its wondrous entry into the part of the world we live in. We pause now to thank you for the following blessings in our lives:

LIST JOYS

And, standing on the promise from scripture that when two or three are gathered together in your name with hearts united and of one accord you are present in a special way, so we lift up to you all those concerns we have been emailed, and all the people and situations about which we are concerned, knowing that you will answer our prayers according to your will and your timetable.

LIST CONCERNS

Loving, merciful, and just God, we now lift up to you now all the leaders on earth, and especially our own government, national, state, and local. We ask that you fill all leaders with your Spirit so that they might make wise and compassionate decisions, informed not by greed but by concern about the common good of our global community.

We lift up to you all of our essential workers and especially our health care providers, who may be working in dangerous situations. Keep them safe and in your loving care.

We pray for all those who presently are without work and those who are working but whose children are out of school or day care.

We pray for all who have been afflicted with COVID-19 asking that they might receive the best of health care. We pray for their loved ones. We pray for our health system. We pray that effective treatment and a vaccine might soon be found.

We pray for all those who are now quarantined at home, sometimes alone. We pray for all those who now have been ordered not to leave their homes except to get essential services and may be feeling anxious and lonely.

We especially pray that during this time we might become a more compassionate world as we realize all the more clearly how very interconnected we are as we remember again our calling to be good stewards of your universe.

We thank you for your son Jesus the Christ, who walked on earth, including during times of great hardship and who, when asked how we should pray, answered his disciples then and now that you should pray by using these words:

“Our Father 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.”

Celebrating with Our Lives

Communion Hymn (*sing or reflect on the words of one of a hymn*)

Communion Meditation: *“That the Church May Be One” (Didache, 2nd century)*

*As the bread which we break
Was scattered over the mountains
And when brought together became one,
So let your church be brought together
From the ends of the earth into your eternal realm;
For yours is the glory and the power
Through Jesus Christ for evermore.*

Communion Prayer

With grateful hearts, O God, we remember the gift of your love in Jesus Christ, who for our sakes was broken that we may be made whole. Bind us together in Christian love. Grant that Christ may be made known to us afresh in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this cup. Amen.

(Please set out your communion elements to take as you recite the words of institution)

*The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread (**lift bread**), and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also (**lift up cup**), after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. These are the gifts of God, for you the people of God. Let us partake together (**think about all your brothers and sisters in Christ who also are taking communion this morning as you remember Jesus**).*

Celebrating with our Gifts

Offertory Prayer: *O God, help us to be good stewards of what we have been given and of what we, in turn, should give away for the building up of Your Kingdom on earth. Amen.*

Receiving of Gifts (*Your tithes and offerings may be mailed to “First Christian Church, 111 North Fifth St., Murray, KY 42071” or dropped off at our accountant Sheila Wilson Alexander’s office. We are exploring online giving options.*)

Doxology (*sing or meditate upon the words*):

♪ Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. ♪

THE PEOPLE OF GOD PROCLAIM THE WORD

Scripture (*to be emailed to you and also posted on our website at fccmurray.com*)

Message (*to be emailed to you and also posted on our website at fccmurray.com*)

Invitation Hymn (*think about and send out your love to your brothers and sisters in Christ here and around the world as you either sing or meditate upon the words*):

♪ Weave, weave, weave us together,
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together,
Weave us together in unity and love. ♪

THE PEOPLE OF GOD GO FORTH TO SERVE

Blessing: Now may the love of God, and the grace we have in Jesus, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all week long.

Congregational Benediction (*join your hearts together with your church family as you meditate upon or sing these words*):

♪ “Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love.” ♪

SENDING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

Extinguish candle as you wave smoke up into the air, dispersing it back into the universe, as a symbol of the light of Christ permeating the world.