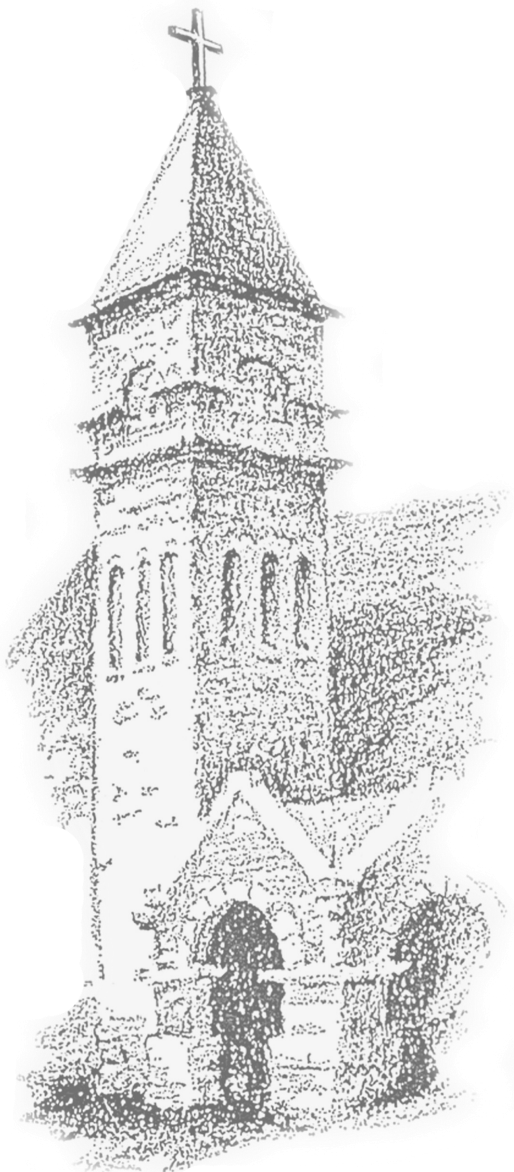


# Worship



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**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**MAY 3, 2026**



**8:30 A.M.**

## Gathering in Praise

(\*) Denotes to stand, if able.

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg

Prelude

*Pass It On*

Travis McFarlane

Litany of Praise (the people read the **bold**)

Dr. Stagg

God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

**Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.**

We need not fear.

**In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.**

Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

**We open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow Jesus Christ.**

Let us pray. **Mighty God, in whom we know the power of redemption, You stand among us in the shadows of our time. As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life, uphold us with knowledge of the final morning when, in the glorious presence of Your risen Son, we will share in his resurrection, redeemed and restored to the fullness of life and forever freed to be Your people. Amen.**

\*Hymn #22

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

## Proclaiming the Word

The Prayers of the People and the Pastoral Prayer

Dr. Stagg

Special Music

*This Is My Story*

Travis McFarlane

Scripture: Acts 7:51-60 (NT p. 126)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

*Ultimate Sacrifice*

Dr. Stagg

## Response of Great Thanksgiving

Invitation to Discipleship

Dr. Stagg

\*Hymn #621 (v. 1-3)

*"Are Ye Able," Said the Master*

Invitation to Stewardship

Annual Stewardship Campaign  
*Speaker, Kira Hoenes*

Offertory Music

Travis McFarlane

\*The Doxology #46

Invitation to the Table

Dr. Stagg

Words of Institution

Elder's Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Eric Seaman

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Our time of communion is open to all followers of Christ, regardless of denominational affiliation. Pass the trays to the middle of the pew, then back to the deacon. Hold the elements in the cups for unison partaking at the minister's invitation. **Gluten free** communion elements can be found in the Narthex. All communion elements are **non-alcoholic**.*

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Dr. Stagg

## **Departing in Service and Joy**

Benediction

\*Recessional #621 (v. 4)

*"Are Ye Able," Said the Master*

**"Are ye able?" Still the Master whispers down eternity,  
and heroic spirits answer now, as then, in Galilee. "Lord, we are able."  
Our spirits are thine. Remold them, make us, like thee, divine.  
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be a beacon to God, to love and loyalty.**

Postlude

*Gospel in F*

Travis McFarlane

## Prayers of the Congregation

**Prayers for Support, Hope, and Healing:** Paula Kurtz; Samantha Watson;  
The Hughey Family

A longer prayer list of ongoing requests is on the yellow sheets in the narthex. Requests for prayer may be submitted via the yellow cards in the narthex, e-mailed or called into the church office.

**The Chancel Flowers** for this morning are given by **Jeff Underwood** in memory of **Dick & Sue Underwood**.

The **yellow rose** on the organ is in celebration of **Jane Ann Hackett's** 92nd birthday on Friday, May 1.

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**Our Mission:** *To know God and follow Jesus Christ*

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### Serving Today

**Office Receptionist:** Mike Randerson

**Welcome Station:** Steve Humble

**Flower Ministry:** Anne Crousore

**Coffee Fellowship Hosts:** The Gieseke

**Early Service Helpers:** Kim & Joe Reardon

**Elder:** Eric Seaman

**Offering Counters:** Jean Juba and Sarah Storm



Summer Worship Schedule

**One Service - 9:30am**

**May 24 - September 6**

Memorial Day Sunday—Labor Day Sunday

## Luke 6:43-45

Actions speak louder than words. You no doubt have heard that before, perhaps for most of your growing up. It is true that our actions are very important. But words are important as well! The power of our speech to encourage or discourage should not be discounted. In the gospel of Luke, in particular, it is the words spoken by the main actors that often gives evidence of the influence of the Holy Spirit. The great poetry (songs) that flow from Elizabeth, Mary, Zachariah, and Simeon early in this gospel is prophetic speech that issues both a word of hope and a caution about judgement.



When Jesus speaks about good fruit coming from good trees and bad fruit from bad trees we know he is really talking about integrity – the integration of the thought and practice into the whole of a person’s life. As the Book of James would remind us it does little good to tell a hungry person to be well feed and full of encouragement if we don’t also provide food to back up our good intentions. The letter of 1 John counsels that we can’t say we love God and at the same time hate our sister/brother. They are non-sequitur. It is equivalent to looking for peaches on a sycamore tree. To love God is love the “other”. To care for the poor is give them a hot meal, not just a platitude.

To say we believe in God and that our faith is a priority, but to fail to engage in the praxis of discipleship is missing something. Now we know that despite the inference of Jesus’ words that we are to be good trees and thus always be bearing good fruit, sometimes our fruit is less than perfect. That is why the words and actions are to be blended together – the reminder of the need to do good deeds (words) and the practicing of good deeds

(actions), even when we don't feel like it, leads us to better and more consistent results.

It is a bit like that with generosity. To be generous sometimes means we have to practice it even when we don't feel like it or when we find it hard, because we have told ourselves that being generous matters and we know that it is evidence of the faith that is in us. Perhaps it is time to inspect the quality of our harvest. Are we consistently bearing good fruit?

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## **Luke 6:43-45**

### **A Tree and Its Fruit**

<sup>43</sup>“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>44</sup>Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. <sup>45</sup>A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

# This Week in the Life of the Church

## Sunday, May 3

### *Stewardship Campaign Commitment Sunday*

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, Yonker Fellowship Hall
- Quiet, Meditative Time, 9:30am, Church Library
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor Cinema
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor Classrooms
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Yonker Fellowship Hall
- Fellowship Tea & Trivia, 4pm, Yonker Fellowship Hall

## Tuesday, May 5

- Bible Study with Dr. Endress, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor

## Wednesday, May 6

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study with Dr. Endress, 12pm, **Virtual Only!**
- Coffman-Watson Restaurant Meeting, 12pm, Red Lobster
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, 3rd Floor
- Stewardship & Finance Meeting, 5:30pm, Morris Parlor

## Thursday, May 7

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm, 3rd Floor

## Saturday, May 9

- Breakfast for Our Brethren, 7-9am, Room at the Inn (1509 Ashley St)

## Sunday, May 10

### *Mother's Day*

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, Yonker Fellowship Hall
- Quiet, Meditative Time, 9:30am, Church Library
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor Cinema
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor Classrooms
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Yonker Fellowship Hall
- End of the Year Youth Group Party, 6pm, Endress House (3405 Bray St)

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## **Join Us! High Tea & Trivia—Sunday, May 3**

The Fellowship Department's annual High Tea & Trivia is this afternoon, Sunday, May 3 at 4:00 p.m.! All are welcome to join us for fun and challenging trivia, sweet treats, and good company! Teams are welcome, but not required to participate.

## **Breakfast for Our Brethren—Saturdays in May**

First Christian Church serves breakfast each Saturday morning in May to folks who stay at Room at the Inn. Those who volunteer help cook, serve, and/or clean up from 6-9 a.m. (or any time between)! We are looking for volunteers and food donations - sign up using the QR code or the binder in the Narthex. Feel free to reach out to **Debbie Potthast** ([dapotthast@gmail.com](mailto:dapotthast@gmail.com)) or **Erin** in the Church Office if you have any questions about serving or donating. Thank you for making this ministry possible!



# WELCOME

**Welcome Visitors!** We are glad you are with us. Please take a moment to visit our website, [firstchristian.org](http://firstchristian.org) to find out more about the ministry and mission of First Christian Church. Feel free to say hello to a host at the *Welcome Station* in the Narthex following worship and receive a folder of church-related information.

**During Worship:** Afghans, large print hymnals and children's bulletins with crayons are available from a greeter or are found on the shelf in the narthex. Hearing devices are available in the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary. Please talk to the AV Team if you need assistance.

**Children:** A nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the Education Building for infants through Kindergarten-aged children. Our nursery is staffed by Mother's Day Out teachers from 8:15am until pickup following the service.

**Children's Worship:** Following the Children's Moment in 10:30 worship, children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to go with leaders to the 3rd floor of the Education Bldg. for their own worship time followed by constructive craft, reading and play time. Parents need to pick up children from the 3rd floor following worship.

**Christian Education:** Christian Education for all ages is held during the 9:30 hour on Sunday mornings from Labor Day—early May. Children (grades K-5) and youth (grades 6-12) meet on the third floor of the Education Building. Adults meet in the Cinema on the third floor of the Education Building.

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## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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573-449-7265

[fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)

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

Facebook: "First Christian Church-Disciples of Christ Columbia, Missouri"

## ways to connect



WEBSITE



GIVE



NEWSLETTER

Scan the code using the camera on your smart phone to open links!