



WELCOME TO  
MORNING WORSHIP



**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF  
THIS BULLETIN ARE  
AVAILABLE AT

**[WWW.FIRSTUCC.NET](http://WWW.FIRSTUCC.NET)**

**- FIRST -  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BETTER TOGETHER**  
Loving God | Helping Others | Finding Joy

## Welcome!

Everyone's health and safety is our top concern and we ask that you worship virtually and **stay home if you are:**

- Experiencing any cold/flu/Covid symptoms, or
- Uncomfortable returning to church at this time.

**If you receive a diagnosis of COVID-19**, please inform the church office (*anonymity will be maintained*) for contact tracing purposes & to keep the remainder of the congregation safe and healthy. *Thank you!*

### In-Person Worship Expectations

For everyone planning to attend in person, this is what to expect:

1. Wear your Mask. We ask that everyone please wear a mask while in the church building and during worship. If you forget your mask or don't have one that day, a mas-k will be provided. If you would like to respond to the call to worship and prayers, please plan to use a (provided) N95 mask. An usher can assist you.
2. \*\*Socially Distanced Seating. Ushers\*\* will show worshipers to designated seats for the day's service to ensure we can keep families together and provide space between pews. **\*\*At this time, we are asking that you seat yourselves in a socially distant manner. (rev. 12/18/2020)\*\***
3. Hand Sanitizer. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the church and it's a best practice to sanitize your hands upon entering and exiting the building
4. \*\*Single-Use Bulletins. We will provide bulletins and we ask that you don't share your bulletin with others. We'll have stations to collect/recycle bulletins as you exit the sanctuary. **\*\*At this time, we ask that you help yourself to bulletins. (rev. 12/18/2020)\*\***
5. Ventilation Enhancements and Open Doors. We have adjusted the ventilation in the sanctuary and plan to keep the Fourth Street doors open to maximize fresh air flow throughout the sanctuary. Doors will be held/propped open upon entering/exiting the building to minimize the need to touch surfaces.

Thank you to our First Church family for following all these safe expectations!

# GATHERING

PRELUDE "An Easter Suite: Procession"  
(based on Gaudeamus Pariter and Christ Ist Erstanden)  
arr. Charles Callahan

© 1990-Morning Star Music Publishers  
Performed by Edward Swartz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 133 (NRSV)

Pastor: <sup>1</sup> How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! <sup>2</sup> It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. <sup>3</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

HYMN "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

*The congregation should refrain from singing.*  
Performed by Edward Swartz and Pastor Jon Bauman

MATTHEW BRIDGES, 1851 S. M. D. GEORGE J. ELVEY, 1868

*Joyously, but with great dignity*

1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
2. Crown Him the Lord of love; Be - hold His hands and side,  
3. Crown Him the Lord of peace; Whose power a scep - ter sways  
4. Crown Him the Lord of years, The Po - ten - tate of time;

Hark! how the heav - en - ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own:  
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied:  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, Ab - sorbed in prayer and praise:  
Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Crown Him with Many Crowns'. It includes a treble and bass clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are provided in four numbered lines and a concluding stanza. The composer information at the top identifies Matthew Bridges (1851) and George J. Elvey (1868) as the authors, with S.M.D. as the publisher. The tempo/mood instruction is 'Joyously, but with great dignity'.

A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
 No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But  
 His reign shall know no end; And round His pierc - ed feet Fair  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For Thou hast died for me: Thy

hail Him as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 down-ward bends His burn-ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 flowers of Par - a - dise ex - tend Their fra-grance ev - er sweet.  
 praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through-out e - ter - ni - ty. A-MEN.

## CALL TO CONFESSION (*Pastor*)

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Please pray this silently along with us*)

Pastor: Loving Father. We have faced a pandemic, whose effects have brought anxiety, isolation, loss, and grieving into our lives and our congregation. Now we see light at the end of the tunnel but, even now, we have doubts. Will a new strain of virus overcome the vaccines? Can we recover from the social and educational privation of the last year? Can we become a vital church that gathers again? Do You still love us? We confess we have such doubts as these and others as well. Please forgive and guide us. Please help us, as You have helped other followers in the past. As we go forward, make us into the people You want us to be. We love and honor You. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Pastor*)

## THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Judges 6:36-40 (NRSV)

Pastor: <sup>36</sup> Then Gideon said to God, “In order to see whether you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said, <sup>37</sup> I am going to lay a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said.” <sup>38</sup> And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. <sup>39</sup> Then Gideon said to God, “Do not let your anger burn against me, let me speak one more time; let me, please, make trial with the fleece just once more; let it be dry only on the fleece, and on all the ground let there be dew.” <sup>40</sup> And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

Pastor: This ends the first reading.

## SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:19-31, Acts 4:32-35 (NRSV)

Pastor: <sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the

house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Acts 4:<sup>32</sup> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Pastor: The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Saints and Us:  
“Doubting What Seems Impossible”  
Pastor Jon C. Bauman

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Love Brought Me Back”  
words and music by Mark A. Miller

© 2018 Choristers Guild

Performed by Virtual Chancel Choir and Edward Swartz

THE APOSTLES CREED *(Please pray this silently along with us)*

Pastor: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Pastor)*

OUR LORD'S PRAYER *(Please pray this silently along with us)*

Pastor: 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.

OFFERING REMARKS AND OFFERTORY PRAYER *(Pastor)*

INVITATION *(Pastors)*

Pastor 1: Jesus now invites us to believe in Him and act on our belief.

Pastor 2: He says, "Here I am. I stand at the door and knock; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in."

Pastor 1: If any are now ready to accept Jesus as Savior, we rejoice and encourage you, as you open your heart and find eternal life.

Pastor 2: He says, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word and My Father and I will make our abode with him.

Pastor 1: Merciful God, we rejoice with You for all who have accepted salvation and all who keep your word to love other as themselves. Amen.

*If you have professed faith in Jesus for the first time or have committed yourself anew to grow as a disciple, please inform the pastors.*

CHARGE (*Pastor*)

BENEDICTION (*Pastor*)

POSTLUDE

“The Strife is O’er”

Hal H. Hopson

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Performed by Edward Swartz

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are 25 Easter lilies which are available for taking home.

*Enjoy!*

TODAY - FINAL CALL – SUNDAY APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> is the deadline for the guild’s “Help for Houston” offering to assist those affected by the devastating winter storm and massive power outages. If you wish to donate and missed doing so, you can turn the offering in on Sunday or drop it in the mail slot at the parking lot door any time before Monday morning! For more details, see your March church newsletter!

*We encourage you to remember our grieving families in your prayers and with cards of encouragement and condolences at this time.*

THANK YOU to everyone who prepared and delivered the delicious lunches made by the café. They were certain complete meals. Who could ask for anything more!! Thank you, Ramona C.

INTERESTED IN JOINING FIRST CHURCH? Please contact the Pastors or email the church office if you are interested in becoming a member of our First Church family.

May 22 - MAY SPRING CLEAN UP DAY – Property Committee Needs Your Help to **think Spring!** 8:00 a.m. to noon (rain date June 5). Please help with the maintenance of the church property. Bring your favorite gardening tools and pitch in! We are looking to do some weeding, trimming, planting and just cleaning up! We are asking our members to help with these projects. Without your help, this cannot happen. *Thank you!* For questions or to volunteer, contact Janet F. (215-536-9064, email [freyjanetr@yahoo.com](mailto:freyjanetr@yahoo.com)) or Gregg R. (267-374-7729, email [cgreighard@comcast.net](mailto:cgreighard@comcast.net))

COPIES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL REPORT, as well as the minutes of the 2021 annual congregational meeting and an additional report, which was not available at the time of printing of the Annual Report, are available in the Narthex. Contact the Church Office to have a copy mailed.

2021 ONE DREAM MISSION TEAM GOLF OUTING is planning the golf outing! Mark your calendars for Friday, June 4. 12:00 Registration/1:00 pm Shot Gun Start at Butter Valley Golf Port, Barto, PA, \$90 per Golfer/\$40 Dinner Only - It is that time of year to mark your calendars for the One Dream Mission Team Golf Outing! We are looking to fill the course again this year! Please take a pamphlet from the hallway and join us and share with your friends. If you are looking to support the Mission Team we are also collecting sponsorship. *The mission team heads to Camden, New York on July 20 through July 27.*