First United Church

of Bloomington, Indiana [firstuc.org](http://firstuc.org)



…is an inclusive community of

Christian faith,

living out the good news of God’s love revealed in

Jesus Christ.

**We affirm** the ministry gifts of every individual.

**We encourage** spiritual growth in persons of all ages.

**We celebrate** our faith in meaningful worship.

**We support** one another in Christian community.

**We minister** to our neighbors and care for creation.

**We invite** all persons to hear and receive the Christian message of God’s

love.

 ~~~~ Virtual Sunday Service ~~~~

10:30 A.M April 26, 2020

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME OF CENTERING “*A Little Bit of Gospel*” Sam Troxal

 CALLED INTO COMMUNITY

One: Fellow travelers on this path, how shall we proceed?

**All: Celebrating God who hears our prayers and who brings new hope out of despair.**

One: Dear Ones, how shall we live?

**All: With the joy and confidence of God’s beloved community, temporarily distanced but eternally united in love with all beings and all creation.**

One: Beloved friends near and far, how can we remain united when we are apart?

**All: Through our commitment to love our neighbors as ourselves. Though apart, we are community.**

\*HYMN *All Things Bright and Beautiful* No. 31

**Refrain:
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.**

 **1. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,**

**God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.**

**Refrain:**

**2. The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,**

**The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.

Refrain:**

**3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,**

**The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

Refrain:**

PRAYER OF BEGINNING In Unison

**Loving God, we welcome you into all the places we find ourselves this morning.**

**Share our joy and our thanks for the life you give us.**

**Share a meal with us! Dance among us! Celebrate with us! Pray with us!**

**Remind us to live out your love! Amen!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way,

we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance.

We relish the joy which burns within our hearts when you are with us.

Yet, sometimes we would cling to you,

hoarding the happiness of our relationship with you,

and not share our blessings with others.

Forgive us, Dear One.

**All: In this time of need help us to be helpful. We bring to you our failings and times we did not do the good we should have done. Please forgive us. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God may come to us, unrecognized, as a stranger.

The Risen Christ reaches out to us in unexpected ways as we travel throughout our lives. May we recognize that God’s presence never leaves us, and that God’s mercy overflows for whoever seeks it. Amen.

READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES: 1 Peter 1:17-23

CHILDREN’S TIME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES Luke 24: 13-35

SERMON “Just a Simple Meal?” Rev. John Krueger

\*HYMN *What a Fellowship* No. 471

1. **What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

 **Refrain:**

**Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;**

**leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

1. **Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Refrain:**

1. **What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have a blessed peace with my savior near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:**

SENDING FORTH

One: May we endeavor to find the spark of God’s presence in everyone we meet.

**All: Now is the time for new beginnings; new ways of seeking hope, new ways of creating community, new ways of sharing all that is good.**

One: May God continue to surprise us in every new person we meet, masked or unmasked, healthy or sick. God’s love knows no boundaries.

**All: Amen.**