



# First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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Livestream: [Facebook.com/FCCWF](https://www.facebook.com/FCCWF)

**Fifth Sunday of Lent – March 29, 2020**

## THE GATHERING

Prelude

Debbie Watson

Welcome

Dr. Mark Bender

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Call to Worship

Claire Baer & Rev. Josh deSteiguer

**The kingdom of God is here, and coming.**

A mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;  
it is the smallest of all the seeds,  
but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree,  
so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

**The kingdom of God is here, and coming.**

Yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour  
until all was leavened.

**The kingdom of God is here, and coming.**

Treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid;  
then joyfully sells all he has and buys the field.

**The kingdom of God is here, and coming.**

A merchant in search of fine pearls;  
on finding one of great value,  
sells all of his possessions and buys the pearl.

**The kingdom of God is here, and coming.**

Let all who have ears, hear.

– © Katherine Hawker, on her [Outside the Box](http://www.outsidethebox.com) website.

Opening Hymn

*Blessed Assurance* – vs. 1

No. 543

***Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.***

Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Rev. Josh deSteiguer

**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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## THE PROCLAMATION

Scripture Reading	Matthew 13:44-52	Claire Baer
Sermon	<i>The Kingdom of Heaven</i>	Dr. Mark Bender

## THE RESPONSE

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table Dr. Mark Bender

Prayer of Confession Dr. Mark Bender

Lord, you hide the word like a treasure in our heart, as leaven able to penetrate every area of our life, as the seed that is able to grow into a mighty plant. Yet, we confess that we have neglected to attend to that word – to seek it, to grow from it, to nurture its truths in our lives. Forgive us, Gracious God. Help us to concentrate above all upon doing your will. Increase our desire to make following Christ the most important thing in our daily lives. Encourage us to share your love and the good news you have proclaimed through Jesus with one another and with the world. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Prayers for the Bread & Cup Claire Baer & Jeanette Showalter

Distribution of the Loaf and Cup

Words of Assurance Rev. Josh deSteiguer

In our love for others, we discover God's love for us. In our forgiving of others, we learn once more how deeply God has forgiven us. Friends, this is the good news offered to us! We are God's children, called to be different, called to act different, called to live as new people. We are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

*All believers are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.*

**I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.**

## THE SENDING

Sent from the Table Dr. Mark Bender

Closing Hymn *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* No. 433

***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love: the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

***When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.***

Benediction Rev. Josh deSteiguer

Postlude Debbie Watson

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## MEMORIALS & HONORS

In memory of Nita Pratt given by Diana Costello, Kerry & Sharon Roach, Harvey & Sherry Martin.

In memory of Mary Beth Wyatt given by Kerry & Sharon Roach.

In memory of Sondra Willis, sister of Larry Spradley, given by Harvey & Sherry Martin.

In memory of Rita & Ewell Cason given by Sandra Ketchum.

In memory of Anita Mills given by Sandra Ketchum.

In memory of Helen & Roy Jackson given by Sandra Ketchum.