



THE FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 10, 2022 | 10:00 AM

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Abbot's Leigh

Robert J. Powell

WELCOME

Rev. Lynette Ross

If you are visiting FCC, reach out to Rev. Lynette Ross (lynette@fcc-houston.org), our sabbatical Senior Minister to learn more about the church and its ministries. She would be happy to meet with you via Zoom, in person, or over the phone.

*HYMN NO. 253

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:7-14

Angie Langhus

Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone? Or if the child asked for a fish, would give a snake? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Abba God in heaven give good things to those who ask!

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Olivia Sponsler-Sanchez

SUNG RESPONSE*Take, O Take Me As I Am*

John L. Bell

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949

Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949

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SERMON*"The Power of Surrender"*

Rev. Lynette Ross

HYMN NO. 314*As We Gather at Your Table*

BEACH SPRING

PASTORAL PRAYERS**MISSION MOMENT***MAM: Back to School*

Linda Kuhnen

BRING FORTH OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Angie Langhus

Checks or cash donations may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the FCC office. The preferred method of giving electronically is through Zelle. Zelle is available through most major bank apps under transfers and incurs no additional fees to either the donor or FCC for the gift. To use Zelle, enter the following email address: financialsecretary@fcc-houston.org. FCC members can also use the Realm app on their phone or computer to make electronic donations. If you don't have the Realm app, please contact Vicki Shimer at vicki@fcc-houston.org for an invitation.

OFFERTORY*Adoration*

Florence B. Price

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, triune, whom we adore.
Amen.†

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

May these gifts and our lives bear fruit in many good works,
increasing among all people knowledge of God, patience,
and endurance, wisdom and understanding, love, and joy.
Amen.†

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

***SURSUM CORDA**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.†

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***SANCTUS**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, _____
Bless - ed is _____ the one who comes _____

God of pow - er and might, _____ heav - en and earth _____ are
in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho - san - na in _____ the

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in _____ the high - est.
high - est. _____ Ho - san - na in _____ the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Come to the Table of Grace

Musical notation for the hymn 'Come to the Table of Grace'. It consists of three staves of music in G major, 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with lyrics underneath. The second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics. The lyrics are: '1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.'

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

TEXT and MUSIC: Barbara Hamm, 2008
Text and Music © 2008 Hope Publishing Company

TABLE OF GRACE
7.7.10.7

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

**Our Creator, 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.†**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**God our Creator, in the Eucharist feast,
You have renewed your covenant with humankind.
Help us to follow humbly
In the path of Christ the servant,
Who opened our hearts to love and our minds to see. Amen.†**

***OUR MISSION**

**Welcome all into an inclusive community;
Seek to follow Jesus' teachings;
Search for more truth and light;
Support one another on our faith journeys;
Strive for peace and justice. †**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Darwall's 148th

Charles Callahan

Bold indicates congregational response.

*Please stand if you are able.

† As an inclusive and open faith community, we attempt to convey gender neutral images, terms, and language of God. However, some hymns, anthems, and scriptures from the past will not be changed. See fourth paragraph, page V of Hymns of Truth & Light hymnal for more information.

WORSHIP NOTES:

THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE TODAY WERE DONATED BY Kathryn & George Howe in celebration of family & friends.

MUSIC COPYRIGHT INFO: All music is reprinted under permission of our OneLicense.net account #A-727634.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE:
For more information or assistance, please speak to one of the ushers.

MISSION MOMENT: MAM BACK TO SCHOOL

Do you remember how excited you were to have a new outfit or uniform at the start of the school year? Many families in Houston do not have the money to buy even one new outfit for their children. You can help brighten the beginning of next school year. There are now over 30 faith communities which support MAM. The zip codes served include CyFair, Aldine, HISD and Spring Branch schools. In the summer and early fall a drive takes place to provide \$50 gift cards to Old Navy to help up to 5000 designated students purchase uniforms for the start of school. Having appropriate clothing helps students to start the school year off with enthusiasm and a good feeling about themselves. Your contribution of any amount will help make this goal a reality. Mark your check or online donation with the memo, "MAM." For online contributions, please refer to the offering section.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

All of the women, people with uteruses, people of color, and people in the LGBTQ+ community who feel despair, anger, confusion, & fear at this time; Wilbur Stilwell, Chuck Stilwell's father; Jim O'Sullivan; Family & friends of Lanell Windham, friend of the Stilwells; Rebecque Demark; Stephanie Fuentes, Amy Stabile's student; Family & Friends of Max Ballock; Patt Ross, Diane Brahm's sister-in-law; Jake Stahl & his family; Family & friends of Carol Riley; Rhonda & Donald Sweeney; Katherine Garcia (Bahr Mahony's sister) Beth Stork; Graces Greves (Heidi Modaro's Niece); Family & Friends of Mary Thomas (Mona Rhines' friend); Vivian Clemons, Jacqueline Lord, & Ethan Beaty (wife, niece, & great-nephew of Chuck Clemons); Sharon Smith, (friend of Diane Brahm); Liz Tucker (daughter of Rachel & Jim Tucker); Brad Gowan (friend of Michael Schafer and Ellen Benninghoven), Family & friends of Shirley Gilford (friend of Joyce Huffman); Jennifer Novak (friend of Janice Vanderbur); Audra Firestone (friend of Naomi Black); Tom Johnson (Martha Johnson's brother); Lindsey Byrd (daughter-in-law of Paul & Mary Byrd); Carlene Shirk; Jade Allen; Lee Menard (friend of Tom O'Neill); Claire Cardwell; Jonathan & Carolyn Hutchison (Naomi Black's brother & sister-in-law); Joel Fokom (father of one of Heather Davis' Brownie Girl Scouts); Jennifer Schafer (Michael Schafer's daughter-in-law); John & Sue Anne Pieroni (Mary Harper's brother and sister-in-law); Jennifer Chapin (Robin Stilwell's friend); John Stroehlein (MaryBeth Baun Pappas' friend); Mark Scallan; Frances Davis (Mary Harper's friend); Jenny Johnston (Krysia Lynes' friend).

NEXT WEEK: THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon: "Searching & Fearless" by Rev. Lynette Ross

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-24

MASKS IN WORSHIP

Worship is mask optional, but given the rising numbers of COVID cases, we prefer you to wear a mask, even if you are vaccinated.

COFFEE, TEA, & CONVERSATION

Please join us in Room 4 immediately after worship for fellowship and refreshments.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

There will be Children's Sunday School this Sunday for youth ages 5-13. If your child has not attended Sunday School in the past, please be sure to see Olivia in the Narthex before service to sign them up, or email olivia@fcc-houston.org.

BLOOD DRIVE • TODAY, JULY 10

We are holding a blood drive today from 9 AM to 1 PM in the Assembly Room. If you would like to donate, please go to the Assembly Room or sign up at https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/337383.

ST. PETER UNITED SHOE DRIVE • NOW - JULY 31

St. Peter United UCC is holding a shoe drive! We will be collecting new or gently used shoes to aid their efforts. Shoes will be distributed to entrepreneurs in developing countries who need inventory to open local shoe stores. These stores will supply their families with income, provide employment opportunities, and place shoes on the feet of children and adults in their communities. Please drop off any shoes in the bin in the Narthex now through July 31 or stop by the church office from 10 AM - 2 PM, Monday through Friday. If you have any questions about dropping off shoes, contact Olivia at office@fcc-houston.org. If you have any questions about the project or would like to make a monetary donation, please contact St. Peter United at shoes@stpeterunited.com.

PEACE CAMP HOUSTON • NOW - AUGUST (VARIOUS DATES)

The Church in Society Board (CIS) is announcing upcoming Peace Camp, a day camp sponsored by Houston Peace and Justice Center for students in grades 1- 6 and 7-12. The camps are held for a week at three different locations in Houston. Details regarding registration, dates and tuition can be found at hpsc.org/peace-camp/. Scholarships are available. Further questions, call Janet Rexroad at 832-877-2813 or Robin Stillwell at 713-702-9448.

MAM GROUP VOLUNTEER EVENT • THURSDAY, JULY 14, 6-8 PM

FCC's next Mission event is an evening at the MAM Resale store. We be sorting donations, hanging clothes, straightening displays, and helping at the checkout. MAM resale is a clean, organized, fun resale store that collects and sells donated items. Money made from the resale store goes back to the community by funding our services. Currently the Rahmatzada family is taking ESL classes at MAM, and we have been able to supply rugs and small appliances in a cost effective way from the store thanks to Chuck Stilwell who puts his carpentry skills to use repairing furniture. We have room for eight volunteers. All volunteers must be at least 13 years of age. Volunteers 13-15 years old must be accompanied by a parent and 16 years and older may work alone. Volunteers must wear long pants, shirt with sleeves, and closed-toe shoes. To join in the fun, please contact Krysia at missions@fcc-houston.org or 919-636-1137.

RELIGIONS OF SW HOUSTON TOUR • SATURDAY, JULY 23

In partnership with Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, we will be offering a tour of three spiritual communities in Southwest Houston on Saturday, July 23. The tour will take place in the morning, and we will have more details about meeting up and transportation as we get closer to the event. Middle & High School youth & parents are especially encouraged to participate! Other interested adults are welcome as well, but priority will be given to youth should space run out. We will be visiting the following locations:

- BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir
- Viet-Nam Buddhist Center Buddhist Center
- Gurdwara Sahib of Southwest Houston

For questions or to register, contact Olivia at olivia@fcc-houston.org, or Pastor Lynette at lynette@fcc-houston.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL • THURSDAY - SATURDAY, JULY 28 - 30

We are excited to announce this summer's VBS in collaboration with St. Peter United UCC! At VBS, your kids can get curious about the gifts God has given them, what they can learn from others, and how they can spend time with God.

VBS will take place at St. Peter United UCC from 6 - 9 PM on Thursday & Friday, July 28 & 29, as well as 12 - 2:30 PM on Saturday, July 30. It will include children who are potty-trained all the way through 12 years old. Youth ages 13 & up are strongly encouraged to participate by volunteering, especially with putting on skits! Friends are invited as well.

As a mission component, we will be collecting new & gently used shoes to distribute to developing country entrepreneurs who need inventory to open local shoe stores. These stores will supply their families with income, provide employment opportunities, and put good shoes on to the feet of community members. For more information, see the shoe drive announcement above.

We need volunteers from our congregation to make VBS a great experience! and volunteering can be a great way to build community among ourselves and the members at St. Peter. If you have any questions or would like to register/volunteer, contact Olivia at olivia@fcc-houston.org. Get ready for a great VBS!

UCC SOUTHERN REGIONAL WOMEN'S RETREAT • OCTOBER 14 - 16

Greetings to the UCC Women of the Florida, South Central, Southeast, and Southern Conferences! You are invited to attend the Southern Regional UCC Women's Retreat at Camp Weed and the Cerveny Conference Center in Live Oak, Florida October 14-16, 2022. You will value the inspiration, camaraderie, making new friends and reconnecting with old ones, learning new skills, and listening to God in a natural setting. Visit the website at <https://www.uccfla.org/meetings> for more information.

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE UPDATE

We are in our fourth month of the six-month commitment to assist Interfaith Ministries in supporting several refugee families. As you know, we have been assisting 7 families to resettle here in Houston in various ways. We recently have been assisting 4-6 more families with furniture and household goods. Ongoing activities we are assisting with include assisting with childcare, moving & supplying furniture, assisting with english-language acquisition, and providing sewing machines for families. Please contact Chuck Stilwell (406-491-1129 or chuckstilwell58@gmail.com) or Jim Tucker (301-807-9255 or jtuckergeo@aol.com) if you're interested in volunteering or helping with material goods. Finally, in addition to the core group of 8-10 volunteers, we want to give a big thank you to the numerous FCC members and visitors who have provided monetary and material donations over the last 4 months. Numerous household goods, personal items, and over \$3000 of donations have been received so far. This project has truly been a church-wide effort.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

If you would like to make an announcement, please email your submissions to office@fcc-houston.org **before 2 PM** on Wednesdays. All submissions received after this time will be considered for publication the following week.

UKRAINE DONATION UPDATE

Members of FCC recently made a donation via First Church in Marlborough, MA for Ukraine relief efforts. We received a thank you letter and wanted to share part of it with you:

"On behalf of the over 3 million Ukraine refugees that have sought shelter in Poland I want to thank you for your congregation's generous donations to their relief.

As of today, we have raised just over \$143,000 from 39 congregations (predominantly UCC) and individuals in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, and Texas, as well as the Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers. Your overwhelming and generous gifts have gone to support at least 600 refugees in Methodist, Lutheran, and Reformed congregations, as well as direct relief in Ukraine organized by the Lutheran Diakonia in Poland.

Do not cease to pray for a just peace; do not cease to reach out in gratitude to others as thanksgiving for the grace we have received in Jesus Christ. Do not forget the Ukrainian refugees.

*The Rev. Dr. Kazimierz (Kaz) Bem
First Church in Marlborough, Congregational (UCC)"*

Upcoming Board Meetings

Monday, July 11

- **Missions Board Meeting**
- 7 PM via Zoom

Tuesday, July 12

- **Trustees Board Meeting**
- 7 PM via Google Meet

Wednesday, July 13

- **Communications Board Meeting**
- 6 PM via Zoom

Monday, August 1

- **Church in Society Board Meeting**
- 7 PM via Zoom

For meeting links, please refer to the newsletter. If you do not have access to the newsletter, email office@fcc-houston.org.

The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HOUSTON

10840 Beinhorn Road - Houston, Texas 77024

Phone: 713.468.9543 | www.fcc-houston.org

The Reverend Jonathan C. Page, *Senior Minister* | jon@fcc-houston.org

The Reverend Lynette Ross, *Senior Sabbatical Minister* | lynette@fcc-houston.org

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Stevie Berryman, *Director of Handbells*

Howard Strong, *Financial Secretary* | financialsecretary@fcc-houston.org

Terry Smith, *Wedding Coordinator* | weddingcoordinator@fcc-houston.org

Maggi Tucker, *Minister of Music Emerita* | hymnal@fcc-houston.org

Church Officers:

Moderator: Pat Rickey | moderator@fcc-houston.org

Vice Moderator: Robin Stilwell | moderator-elect@fcc-houston.org

Treasurer: Shawn Gleason | treasurer@fcc-houston.org

Clerk: Rebecque Demark | clerk@fcc-houston.org

Church Council Members:

At-Large Member: Eric Toskey | daddyeric@me.com

At-Large Member: John Fosseen | fosseen@sbcglobal.net

Board of Christian Education: christianed@fcc-houston.org

Board of Communications: David Pelton | communications@fcc-houston.org

Board of Church in Society Co-Chair: Claire Cardwell | churchinsociety@fcc-houston.org

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In case of emergencies, contact Rev. Lynette Ross at 281-235-5394.



FCC is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We joyfully welcome everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.