



Wherever you are coming from, and wherever you are going, **you belong.**  
Whatever your background, your race, or your ethnicity, **you belong.**  
Whomever you love, whatever your sexual orientation, **you belong.**  
Whatever gender expression, **you belong.**  
Whatever nationality or legal status, **you belong.**  
Whatever your abilities, **you belong.**  
Whatever generation you come from, **you belong.**  
Wherever you lay your head at night, **you belong.**  
Whether you are a long-time Christian, spiritual seeker, or a doubter, **you belong.**  
If you're here this morning, **you belong.**

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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801-487-1357 • [www.firstcongregationalslc.org](http://www.firstcongregationalslc.org)  
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Find us on:  

**April 7, 2024**  
**Holy Hilarity Sunday**

# Worship Celebration

**April 7, 2024**

**10:30AM**

## *Holy Hilarity Sunday*

### **Thought to Guide Meditation**

*"The joy of the Lord is our strength." – Nehemiah 8:14*

### **Pre-Game**

Alan Chavez, Pianist

### **Welcome to the Friendly Confines of First Congregational Church**

### **High Fives to Your Nearby Neighbor**

### **\*Hymn**

"Jesus Loves Me"

#437

### **Call to Worshipful Play**

Carla McIntire

One: Jesus died so we could be forgiven.

**Many: Jesus rose so we could have abundant life.**

One: When the wonder of the resurrection hits us...

**Many:...we just have to laugh!**

All: Let us worship God!

### **Invocation and Lord's Prayers (Unison)**

O Lord, the heavens declare Your wonders, because Easter reminds us that joy comes with the morning! Help us honor You today with our laughter, as we celebrate the greatest plot twist of all—Jesus rising again. Come among us with Your Holy Spirit, so we may pray truly the prayer Jesus teaches disciples to pray saying, "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, the Power and the Glory forever. Amen"

### **National Anthems**

**"Star-Spangled Banner"**

Insert

**"O Canada!"**

### **Star-Spangled Banner**

Oh say can you see  
By the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed  
At the twilight's last gleaming  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars  
Through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watched  
Were so gallantly streaming  
And the rocket's red glare  
The bombs bursting in air  
Gave proof through the night  
That our flag was still there  
Oh say does that star-spangled  
Banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free  
And the home of the brave

### **O Canada!**

#### **Verse 1**

O Canada  
Our home and native land  
True patriot love in all thy  
sons command  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise  
The True North strong and free  
From far and wide O Canada  
We stand on guard for thee

#### **Chorus**

God keep our land  
Glorious and free  
O Canada we stand on guard for thee  
O Canada we stand on guard for thee

## **Throwing Out the First Pitch**

### **First Inning – Choir Anthem**

Devon Bettolo, Director

### **Second Inning – Prayers of the People**

Team Chaplain

### **Third Inning – Collection for New Equipment**

Promotionals

### **Fourth Inning – Thanksgiving**

#### **\*Doxology**

#34

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

We give thanks Lord, for all the many blessing of life. We have been given much. We bring our offerings to help, support and love others and to return the love You have bestowed on each of us. Amen.

## **Fifth Inning – Refreshments**

### **Take Me Out to God's Worship**

Insert

(sung to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ball-game")

#### **Take Me Out to God's Worship**

Take me out to God's worship,  
Take me out to the game.  
Bibles and hymnals out of the rack,  
in so glad I can always go back!  
Let me root, root, root  
'Cause we're God's team,  
We always win in God's Name.  
For it's one, two, three prayers, God's Great!  
Help us play Your game!

## **Mystery of Holy Communion**

### **Communion Prayer**

God be with you  
**And also with you**  
Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to God**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise**  
We give You thanks  
**Invitation to the Table**

### **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

We confess to You, O God, the ways we have failed to live as Easter People this week. You know our hearts, our struggles and our intentions to live in faith. Please forgive our failures of word and deed, and help us to realize and live out the true depth of Your gracious love. Amen

### **Assurance of Pardon**

### **Words of Institution**

### **Sharing the Elements**

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)**

Bountiful God, we give You thanks that You have refreshed us at Your table by granting us the Presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### **Sixth Inning – Reading from God’s Playbook**

God’s Steadfast Word

Psalm 100

God’s Living Word

Luke 6:37–42

### **Sixth Inning Stretch – Sweet Jesus Christ**

Insert

(sung to the tune of “Sweet Caroline”)

Where it began,  
You in the beginning, knowin’  
And now I know it’s growing strong  
Was in the spring  
And spring became the summer  
Who’d have believed you’d  
come along.  
Hands, touchin’ hands  
Reachin’ out, touchin’ me, touchin’ you

Sweet Jesus Christ (ba-ba-bah)  
Good times never seemed so good  
(so good, so good, so good)  
I’ve been inclined (ba-ba-bah)  
To believe they never would  
But now I...

...look at the night  
And it don’t seem so lonely  
Now it’s filled up with love from You.  
And when I hurt,  
Hurtin’ runs off my shoulders  
How can I hurt when holding you?  
Warm, touchin’ warm  
Reachin’ out, touchin’ me, touchin’ you

Sweet Jesus Christ (ba-ba-bah)  
Good times never seemed so good  
(so good, so good, so good)  
I’ve been inclined, (ba-ba-bah)  
To believe they never would  
Sweet Jesus Christ (ba-ba-bah)  
Good times never seemed so good  
(so good, so good, so good)  
Sweet Jesus Christ, (ba-ba-bah)  
I believe they never could  
Sweet Jesus Christ, (ba-ba-bah)  
Good times never seemed so good  
(so good, so good, so good)  
Sweet Jesus Christ...

### **Seventh Inning – Understanding God’s Word for Our Lives**

Rev. Doug Gray

## **Eighth Inning – Singing our Head Coach's Praises**

"There Is Sunshine in My Soul Today"

Insert

### **Chorus**

O there's sunshine blessed sunshine  
When the peaceful happy moments roll  
When Jesus shows His smiling face  
There is sunshine in my soul

### **Verse 2**

There is music in my soul today  
A carol to my King  
And Jesus listening can hear  
The songs I cannot sing

### **Verse 1**

There is sunshine in my soul today  
More glorious and bright  
Than glows in any earthly sky  
For Jesus is my light

### **Verse 3**

There is springtime in my soul today  
For when the Lord is near  
The dove of peace sings in my heart  
The flow'rs of grace appear

### **Verse 4**

There is gladness in my soul today  
And hope and praise and love  
For blessings which He gives me now  
For joys laid up above

## **Ninth Inning – Going Home as Members of the Winning Team**

Let us go now, as we go, let us remember: We haven't just been to church... we ARE the church. And when we are truly the church, then we are the Presence of Christ to each other and to the world. So let us go into the world and be the Church, through the transforming love and power of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen

**\*Congregational Hymn** "God Be with You"

#716

*God be with you till we meet again,  
By his counsels guide uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.*

**\*Postlude**

*\*Congregation, please stand, if able.*

## **Announcements**

**Adult Formation** ~ We will start Sunday, April 14 at 9:15am for Adult Formation, in a classroom in the Christian Ed. Wing of All Saints. (across the hall from FCC Offices)

**Friday Lunch Bunch** ~ Please join us on most Fridays, for a spiritually enriching lunch experience, as we delve into the teachings and wisdom of the Bible. Our weekly Bible Study sessions are open to all and provide an opportunity to explore the scriptures, discuss their relevance in our lives, and grow in faith together. We meet in person or by Zoom.

**Women's Breakfast** ~ Ladies, mark your calendars! We are thrilled to invite you to a Women's Breakfast on April 12 at 9am, we are meeting at Delice on State Street. It is a fantastic opportunity for us to come together, enjoy a delicious meal, and connect with one another. We will be making this a regular monthly event, held on the second Friday of every month, so if you can't make this month, we hope to catch you next month. To RSVP, please contact Cynthia Gray.

**April Outreach** ~ The Outreach Board has chosen The Utah Food Bank program, "Kids Café" to receive donations designated to Outreach for the month of April. Kids Café: Kerri Duncan is in charge of Kids Café and she was excited to hear that we were supporting her program.

"Filling the nutrition gap that exists during out-of-school hours with nutritious after-school meals." They currently serve 2,000 meals a day. During the summer, when the children are not in school, they serve meals at parks and other locations.

Utah Food Bank's Kids Café is offered in partnership with educational after-school sites at local elementary schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, and community centers. Last year alone, this program provided 366,466 meals to children at risk of hunger. Kids Café meals provide the kind of nutrition that grows healthy, resilient bodies and minds. It helps fill the nutrition gap that often exists during out-of-school hours for many children who rely on free or reduced-price meal programs during the school day. The objectives of the program are twofold: first, to ensure that the children most vulnerable to hunger receive an evening meal, and second, to provide balanced nutrition in each meal served.

Last year, our Kids Café kitchen staff prepared an average of 1,409 meals each weekday. These meals were packed and transported to 121 sites where at least 50% of the children qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches. Participating sites offer not only a way to satiate hunger, but also a safe place where children can participate in educational, recreational, and social activities under the supervision of trustworthy staff.

**Coffee Hour Hosts Needed** ~ Celebrating a special occasion? Enjoying the fellowship after an uplifting worship service? Consider helping with Coffee Hour. There is a sign-up sheet by the goodies, and we will try to provide help with set up and clean up. If you have any questions, please contact Cissy Wolff at [cissywolff@gmail.com](mailto:cissywolff@gmail.com) or call/text at 801-243-5457.

**Cares and Concerns Committee** ~ The Deacons Board wants to revive the Cares & Concerns committee, which would help provide a meal to members who are ill, injured, or have surgery. We are looking for volunteers to coordinate this committee as well as volunteers who could provide a part of a meal (main dish, dessert, salad) in a time of need. We would also like to create a list of volunteers who might be willing to help with putting together a reception following a funeral/memorial. Please let us know if you are willing to help in any capacity toward this caring community commitment. Please contact Carla McIntire or Diane Forster-Burke.

**Taizé Worship with ASEC April 7 and 21@7pm** ~ Worship is meant to be experienced with all our senses, to involve our whole body in praising and honoring God. The Taizé worship experience is designed to do just that. Twice a month, All Saints Episcopal hosts Taizé worship—meditative music, prayerful chanting, thoughtful message, and Biblical worship all rolled into one! Why not give it a try!

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#### **Office Travel Schedule for Rev. Doug**

Rev. Doug will be attending the National Association's Minister's Convocation in Chicago April 7 – 11. He will return to the office, April 12.

#### **Office Hours for Kristi**

Monday – Off

Tuesday – In office 8:30am – 3pm

Wednesday – Remote Hours

Thursday – In office 8:30am – 3pm

Friday – Remote Hours

#### **Weekly Calendar**

April 9 – Deacons Meeting@3pm

April 11 – Choir Rehearsal@7pm

April 12 – Bible Study@Noon

April 14 – Adult Formation@9:15am

April 14 – Choir Rehearsal@9:30am

April 14 – Worship Service@10:30am

#### **Looking Ahead**

April 16 – Council @2:30pm

April 11 – Choir Rehearsal@7pm

April 12 – Women's Breakfast@9am

April 12 – Bible Study@Noon

April 21 – Sandwich Making following worship

April 28 – Informational Meeting on the budget following worship