

MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 2, 2022

The Second Sunday after Christmas

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 169 years our Covenant has been: We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and holy scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.*

The liturgy of Morning Prayer is a form of daily worship adapted through the ages that has its earliest roots in our Jewish heritage. Its premise is one of praying to God at the beginning of the day—giving thanks for another day ahead. The service falls roughly into three main parts: Opening sentences and singing/reading of the Psalms; readings from Holy Scripture - usually one from the Hebrew texts, and one from the Gospels - interspersed with ancient songs of the church; and prayers. To this we add Holy Communion, bringing further meaning to the totality of the prayers we have already offered. The liturgy presupposes full and hearty congregational involvement in the spoken and sung responses, preparing us to be sent forth from this house of worship into the wider world to live out the Great Commission.

PRELUDE

Kevin Jones, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened,

People: which God has made known to us.

Please stand as you are able

(indicates Congregation standing)*

* THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

L: O God, open our lips.

P: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

L: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

* OPENING SONG

Sing to God with Joyful Hearts

Jacques Berthier, Taizé chant

(sung twice)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Sing to God with joy - ful hearts. Praise the Lord for". The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics: "ev - er - more, praise the Lord for ev - er - more." The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and includes a repeat sign at the end.

L: Jerusalem will worship you, O God, and Zion will praise your name.

P: For you have strengthened the bars of our gates and have blest our children within us.

L: You have established peace on our borders and satisfied us with the finest wheat.

P: You send out your command to the earth, and your word runs very swiftly.

L: You give snow like wool and scatter hoarfrost like ashes.

P: You scatter your hail like breadcrumbs; who can stand against your cold?

L: You send forth your word and melt them; you blow with your wind and the waters flow.

P: You declare your word to Jacob, your statutes and your judgments to Israel.

L: You have not done so to any other nation;

P: to them you have not revealed your judgments. Alleluia!

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7–14

A reading from the book of Jeremiah, chapter 31.

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.



1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice With heart, and soul, and voice;
 2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice With heart, and soul, and voice;
 3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice With heart, and soul, and voice;



Now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 Now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 Now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, And He is in the man - ger now.
 God has o - pened heav - en's door, And we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all To gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

THE SECOND READING

John 1:10–18

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 1.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

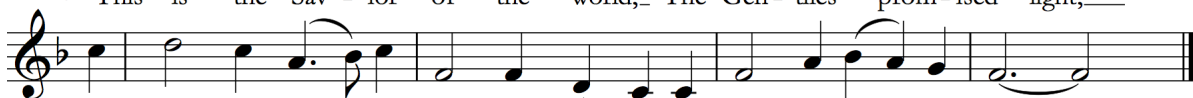
L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CANTICLE: SONG OF SIMEON

Land of Rest

1. Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace, Your word is now ful - filled.
 2. This is the Sav - ior of the world, The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light,



These eyes have seen sal - va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
 God's glo - ry dwell - ing in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.

THE PRAYERS

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, you have given us the Word in flesh. Let the Word be the wisdom for all that we do in our lives; through Jesus Christ, this Word, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, the members, family, and friends who are listed in the Depart to Serve and whom we hold in our hearts in prayer. As directed, you are invited to pray silently or aloud for those needs and concerns you have.)

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us in this day's journey. Use our hands to do the work of your creation, and use our lives to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, redeemer of all. **Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

Want to give online? Please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:

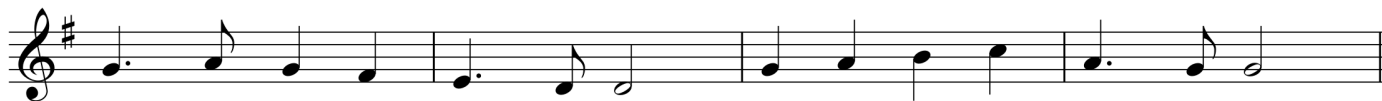


MISSION INVITATION

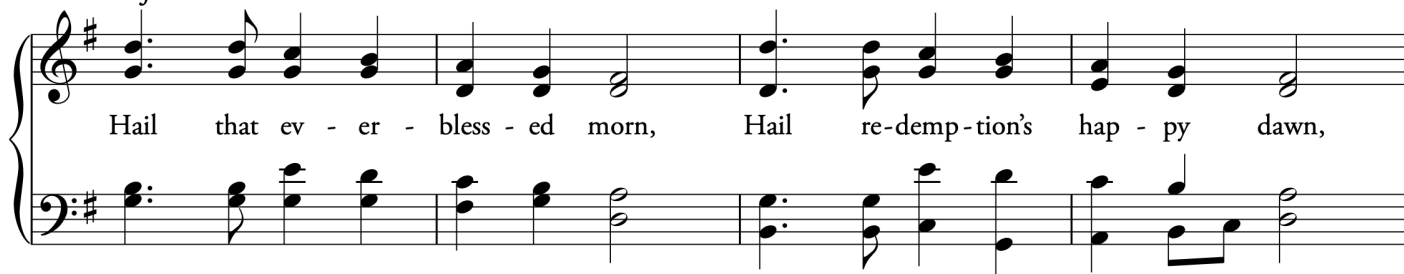
Designated gifts go to support the weekly feeding ministry of **The Largest Table** at St. John's United Church of Christ in Columbus. Every Wednesday for more than ten years, volunteers provide food for individuals and families in the community who are in need. This program transitioned to grab-and-go lunches during the Spring of 2020. The First Church meal team gathers on the third Wednesday of each month to make and pack up to 100 lunches. Your gifts will help purchase the supplies for our meal team to support this feeding ministry. Thank you for your generosity.



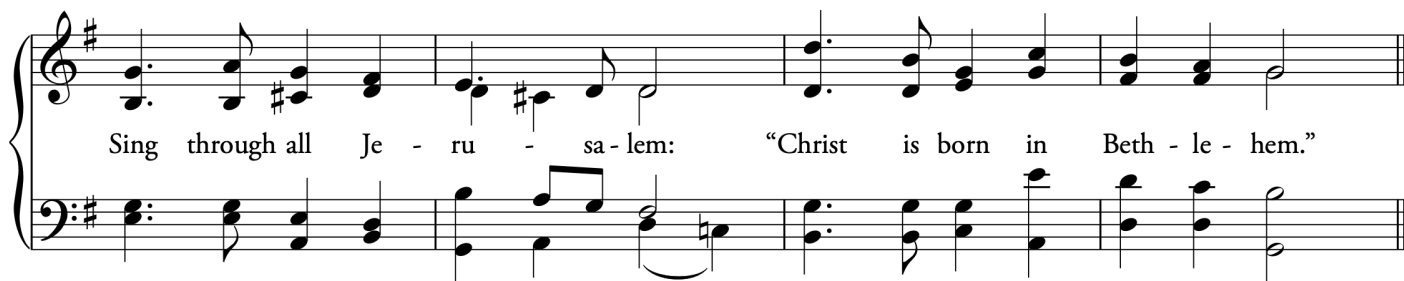
1. See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
 2. Lo, with - in a man - ger lies He who built the star - ry skies;
 3. Sac - red In - fant, all div - ine, what a ten - der love was Thine;
 4. Teach, O teach us, Ho - ly Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
 He, who throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim!
 thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!
 teach us to re - sem - ble Thee in Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty!

Refrain

Hail that ev - er - bless - ed morn, Hail re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn,



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem."

HOLY COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

L: Let us sing the closing hymn as we depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN

O Star of Wonder

Kings of Orient

O ——— star of won - der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright;

West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light!

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE





Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

January 2, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 1/2
9 a.m. Worship (Virtual)
11 a.m. Worship (Virtual)
- 1/3
Church and Church Office Closed
- 1/4
9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day (Virtual)
6 p.m. Personnel Committee Mtg (Virtual)
6:30 p.m. Christian Education Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Justice and Mercy Mtg (Virtual)
- 1/5
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)
7 p.m. Book Club (Virtual)
- 1/6
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Parish Hall)
- 1/8
9 a.m. House and Grounds Mtg (Virtual)
10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Virtual)

Upcoming Missions

- January 9 UCC Disaster Ministries
January 16 King Art Complex- Youth Programs
January 23 Good Samaritan
January 30 Knight-Perry Fund

First Church Book Club

Everyone is invited to join the First Church Book Club. The next meeting is **Wednesday, January 5 at 7 p.m.** and the book is *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro.

If you would like more information or the link to the zoom meeting email Elaine Warren at melainewarren@aol.com.

Nursery Workers Needed

First Church is looking to hire two adult nursery workers. Positions are immediately available. Please contact Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org [for more information](#).

Global Mission Partner

Shelby Perez, Israel / Palestine

Shelby Perez is a Global Mission Intern serving with the Dialogue and Interreligious Engagement Center (Ramallah, Palestine) of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The Center is an initiative of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, bringing people from different Christian denominations and religious traditions to work together toward the common good. Its mission is to provide a safe space for individuals and organizations to meet, communicate, and build relationships to challenge systems of oppression.

Her role is in administrative support including website development and maintenance; research, writing, and editing for publication; writing and editing funding proposals; and establishing and maintaining relationships with other interreligious and ecumenical organizations. She also assists in program development for the center.

Keep in Prayer

Members Lisa Morris; Steven Anderson; Maddie Helmer; Sharon and Glenn Bardus; Pat Groseck; Twink Starr; Martha Huey; Traci Shaw; Carol Woodard; Barbara Knox; Betsy Zahn; and John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

Family and friends Amy Wagner's great nephew, Jack Dosch; Tim Ahrens' grandson, Ethan Stadie; Mary Day Fewlass' friend, Sandy Holley; Kate Erickson's friend, Jay Elliott; Lee Wetmore's sister-in-law, Rhonda Loque and children, and Lee's brother-in-law Matthew Logue; Phillip Smith; Rick Brant; Barbara Clapham's friend, Martha Moore; Joe Provenzano's step-father, Harve Senter; Craig Clay's friend, Tom; Sarah Lange's sister and brother-in-law, Melissa and Dan Clayton; Kathryn Bamberger's brother, Jim Bamberger; Melva Fisher's son, Stephen Fisher; Joe Bellissimo's parents, Joe and Nancy Bellissimo; Kathy Reed's friend, JD Mace.

Those who mourn loved ones David Nassau on the death of his grandmother, Harriet Conklin; Bob and Diana Kutschbach on the death of their sister-in-law, Vicky Kutschbach; John Deliman on the loss of his uncle, Tony Zichi, and Mark Williams on the death of his cousin, Tom Norris.

Prayers for the Columbus' Somali Muslim community on the death of imam Mohamed Hassan Adam.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for Global Ministries worker Shelby Perez in Palestine.

Please note that individuals will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks, unless specified to clergy or staff.

Give

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to "Enter to worship, depart to serve." You can support the mission and ministry of First Church now by scanning the QR Code presented below, using either EasyTithe or PayPal, by visiting www.first-church.org/give.aspx, or by sending your offering directly to First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@first-church.org.



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Emergency Pastoral Care Line

If you need to be in touch with Rev. Corzine or Rev. Ahrens for emergency pastoral care or to name a prayer request, please call **614-733-4547** and leave a message. Someone will return your call as needed.

Church Leadership

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min., M.Div.

Associate Minister Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div.

Minister of Music Kevin Jones, M.M., M.S.E.

Director of Christian Education Mark S. Williams, M.Ed.

Commissioned Minister for Social Justice Tom Brownfield

Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction Jacquelyn Dean

Administrative Manager Amy Wagner

Office Assistant Pat Patterson

Communications Consultant Melissa Kulwicki

Business Administrator Annette McCormick

Building and Grounds Superintendent Mark Dahnke

Building and Grounds Assistant Darrell Cross

Wedding Coordinators Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani

Nursery Staff Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor, Miranda Gumbita

Senior Deacon Al Waddell

Deacons Carol Ernst-King, Sarah Giffen, Scott Graham,

Greg Halbe, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen,

Nancy Kreimer, James Lowe, Allison Lowery Palmer, Mark Sholl, Andrew Smith-VerHage, Hank Wilson, Martha Wilson, Donice

Wooster (1948-2021), Marty Worth

Church Council Leadership

Moderator Alec Deitz

Moderator-elect Christine Farquhar

Treasurer Dennis Secor

Treasurer-elect Andy Bensing

Secretary Peter Murray

Secretary-elect Nicole Moss

Board of Trustees

Chairperson Brian Cave

Trustees Allen Baker, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Kevin Cubick, Elizabeth Iannarino, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren (Secretary),

Christopher Washington

Commissioners

Administration Brad West

Administration-Elect Dennis Secor

Church Growth Geoff Smith-VerHage

Church Growth-elect

Church Vitality Lee Kiesel

Church Vitality-elect Kosby Carrico

Education Margaret Graham

Education-elect Linda Slocum

House & Grounds Eric Klintworth

House & Grounds-elect Mark Brown

Justice & Mercy Lauren Muscott

Justice & Mercy-elect Kris Brant

Music, Arts & Heritage Scott Jones

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect Sandy Mathias

Members-at-Large Jonathan Miller and Finn Miller

Nominating Committee Chair Lynn Wallich

Welcome Statement

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

First Church is a Faith Community

- † Called together by God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
- † Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
- † Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.

Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation
Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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