



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

January 3, 2021

The Second Sunday after Christmas

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 168 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 Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring, BWV 147 J.S. Bach/Busoni

WELCOME The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

OPENING SENTENCES The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

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 staves. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Sing to God with joy - ful hearts. Praise the Lord for". The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "ev - er - more, praise the Lord for ev - er - more." The score includes treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one flat, and various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics.

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!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mark S. Williams

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7–14

Kevin Jones

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

Rev. Ahrens

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.

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.____

HOMILY

“Resolved to Thrive in the Light”

Rev. Ahrens

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

Rev. Corzine

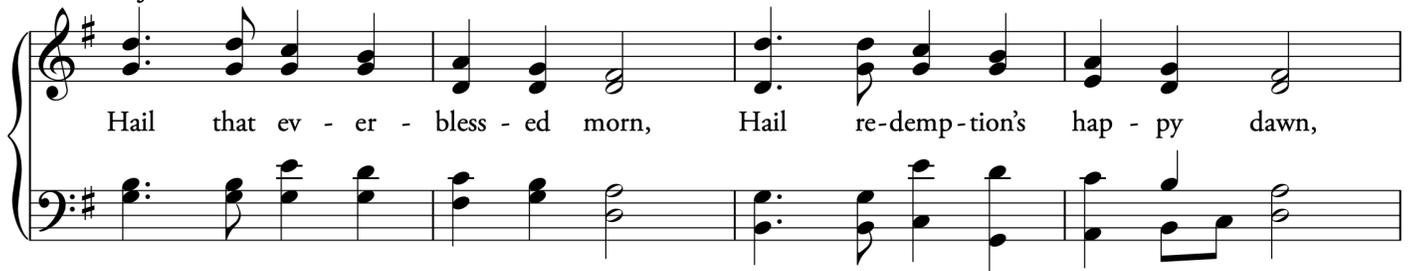
Designated gifts go to **STAR House**, a welcoming drop-in center for transitional youth, ages 14-24, experiencing homelessness. STAR House serves as a safe and accepting place where they can connect with a concerned community. Thank you for your generosity.



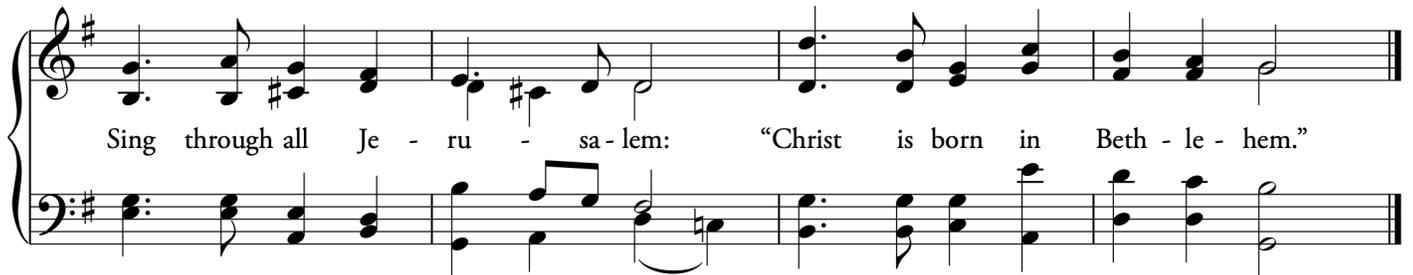
1. See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
 2. Lo, with - in a man - ger lies He who built the star - ry skies;
 3. Sac - red In - fant, all div - ine, what a ten - der love was Thine;
 4. Teach, O teach us, Ho - ly Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,



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

Rev. Corzine

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

Mr. Williams

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!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/8 time, G major. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "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

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Please join us on ZOOM for a virtual coffee hour immediately following this service.

[Click HERE to be taken to this meeting.](#)

ZOOM meeting ID: 865 2790 7526

Password: 601438



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

January 3, 2021

This Week at First Church

| | |
|------------|--|
| 1/3 | |
| 9 a.m. | Worship |
| 9:45 a.m. | Virtual Coffee Hour |
| 11 a.m. | Worship |
| 12 Noon | Virtual coffee Hour |
| 1/4 | |
| 7 p.m. | Faith Formation for Adults: “ <i>STAMPED: Racism, Antiracism, and You</i> ” Book Study |
| 1/5 | |
| 7 p.m. | All-Network BREAD Mtg |
| 8:30 p.m. | Senior Minister Member Minister Advisory Group Mtg |
| 1/6 | |
| 10:30 a.m. | Book Study |
| 7 p.m. | Book Club |
| 1/9 | |
| 8:30 a.m. | House & Grounds Mtg |

These Days Devotionals

These Days for January, February and March 2021 have arrived. If you would like a copy, please email Pat Patterson at ppatterson@first-church.org or phone her at 614-313-9506.

First Church Book Club

Everyone is welcome to join the First Church Book Club! Our first selection for 2021 is *Not Like the Movies* by Kerry Winfrey. We will discuss the book on **Wednesday, January 6 at 7 p.m.** by Zoom. Note the day change.

Anyone who wishes to be added to the Zoom List for the meetings should email Elaine Warren melainewarren232@gmail.com.

The selection for the **February 1** meeting is *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride.

We look forward to a new year filled with reading and friendship!

Senior Minister / Member Advisory Group

If you have any joys or concerns to share regarding our Senior Minister, please contact any one of the SMMAG members prior to the group's meeting on January 5, 2021 at 8:30 p.m.

Kristen Blanks: 333-990-1250; kristenblanks@gmail.com

Duan Cannon: 614-589-7046; Duanie@aol.com

Tom Kiesel: 614-795-0866; kiesel44@msn.com

Jenny Provenzano: 614-395-2428; jenpro1@gmail.com

Steve Sterrett: 614-262-4586; sterrett.1@osu.edu

Warming Centers

The Columbus Coalition for the Homeless has organized warming stations, and First Church is participating by hosting a warming center in our Education Wing on Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m.-Noon. The warming stations are staffed by volunteers from the CCH following all current CDC and local health department guidelines for the safe operation of warming centers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We keep all those who are homeless, as well as those assisting, advocating, and working for their safety in our prayers this winter season.

Health Care Workers Notes of Appreciation

We are partnering with OhioHealth to give words of encouragement to Grant Medical Center staff during this challenging time. Offer words of kindness, wish them patience or courage, thank them for their sacrifice during this difficult time, or draw a picture.

Address your note: Health Care Worker, c/o First Congregational Church, UCC, 444 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Rev. Emily has more information if you need; contact her at ecorzine@first-church.org. There is no deadline, as we will be collecting these on an ongoing basis through the winter months!

Adult Faith Formation

STAMPED: Racism, Antiracism, and You Book Study

Faith Formation for Adults is joining the Columbus Metropolitan Library and eight other library systems in central Ohio's largest book club starting in January. We are encouraging families, friends, and neighbors to read *STAMPED: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. Through the reading of a singular book, the community can reflect together upon the instructional and systemic inequalities that have impacted our community and nation for far too long.

Rev. Tim Ahrens will lead the book study during his Wednesday morning book study as well as an additional Monday evening session starting in January 2021.

Monday Dates:

Monday, January 4, 7 p.m.
Monday, January 25, 7 p.m.
Monday, February 1, 7 p.m.

Topic: Stamped on Mondays
Time: 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82072541164?pwd=Zz-dEZERwNlVuLzJlQk43ZnJHUkZlZD09>

Meeting ID: 820 7254 1164

Passcode: 704803

Wednesday Dates:

Wednesday, January 6, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, January 20, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, February 3, 10:30 a.m.

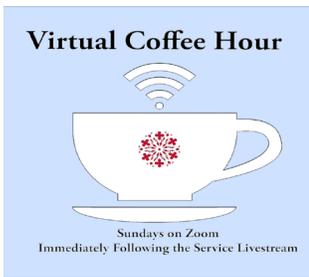
Topic: Stamped on Wednesdays
Time: 10:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88187855765?pwd=Rys-rc0FKUDQ5RFVhSVVjWFVWMDVVRdz09>

Meeting ID: 881 8785 5765

Passcode: 506979



Join the Virtual Coffee Hour!

Immediately following each Worship Livestream.

9 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526?pwd=L-014R1dIdmE4UzIUNdlnZkZ4ZURldz09>

Meeting ID: 865 2790 7526

Password: 601438

11 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88494216574?pwd=cDN-VS0dKaEdvTGhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 9421 6574

Password: 693317

Emergency Pastoral Care Line

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

Should you need to reach either pastor directly for a time to chat, discuss pastoral concerns or have prayer, Rev. Tim can be reached by church voicemail at (614) 228-1741 ext. 13, or email at tahrens@first-church.org.

Rev. Emily has virtual office hours at 10 a.m. on Thursdays. These are 20 minute blocks beginning at 10 a.m. Contact Rev. Emily for a time slot at ecorzine@first-church.org.

Keep In Prayer

In celebration of the birth of Trenton Rink and Elizabeth Mitchell's son, Samuel Anderson, born December 14.

Barbara Sterrett; Tom Bishop; Susan Brooks; John Matchett; Pat Liebchen; Dana Navin Schultz; Lindy Miller; and Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz. Members diagnosed and recovering from Covid-19: Lesley and Karl Schaab; and Robert Reber.

Olive Weller, grandmother of Gretchen Weller; Strick Strickland, nephew of Pat Patterson; Jonathan and Will Nirote, son and grandson of Bill and Arevena Nirote; Bob Prickett, friend of Steve Ferris; Michael Swift, son of Jilda Swift; Tom and Susan Murrell; Erna Temple, mother of David Temple; Dwight Elaine Holt, parents of David Holt; and Jane Mead, mother of Cindy Deliman.

Those who are affected by Covid-19 in our nation and our world, including the family of May Day Fewlass; Trish Bishop; Spencer Roberts, brother of Missy Zimmerman.

Those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Jenny Middendorf and family Andy, Abby, and Ava, and her mother Susie Sturbaum, on the death of her father Robert Sturbaum; Greg Halbe on the death of his father Glen Halbe; Rev. Mary Ann Goetz on the death of her husband Rev. Herb Goetz; Andrew MacGregor on the death of his father Roland MacGregor; the family of former member David Magers; and Hector and Andrea Gonzalez on the death of his classmate Noah Long, 9th grader at Gahanna Lincoln High School. We also mourn all those who lost their lives to homicide in the city of Columbus this year, especially Casey Goodson Junior and Andre Hill.

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.



Designated gifts go to **Star House**, a welcoming drop-in center for transitional youth, ages 14-24, experiencing homelessness. Star House serves as a safe and accepting place where they can connect with a concerned community. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information about Star House visit www.starhouse.us

Upcoming Mission Offerings

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| January 10 | Middle Collegiate Church |
| January 17 | BREAD |
| January 24 | Kaleidoscope |
| January 31 | Trustees Endowment Knight-Perry |

Church Leadership

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

Wedding Coordinators Amy Wagner, Janet Newcity, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Katie Wagner
Nursery Staff Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor, Blessing Weekly, Miranda Gumbita

Senior Deacon James Velo
Deacons Carol Ernst-King, Shelly Gies, Sarah Giffen, Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Lanier Holt, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, James Lowe, Dayna McCrary, Allison Lowery Palmer, Mark Sholl, Andrew Smith-Verhage, Al Waddell, Marty Worth

Church Council Leadership

Moderator Lynn Wallich; **Moderator-elect** Alec Deitz;
Treasurer Dennis Secor; **Treasurer-elect** Matt Myers; **Secretary** Jim Griffin; **Secretary-elect** Peter Murray

Board of Trustees

Chairperson Brian Cave **Trustees** Allen Baker, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn, Kevin Cubick, Christine Farquhar, Tom Hadley, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren

Commissioners

Administration Andy Bensing; **Administration-elect** Brad West; **Church Growth** Cheryl Hoskinson; **Church Growth-elect** Elisha Hardekopf; **Church Vitality** Fran Panek; **Church Vitality-elect** Lee Kiesel; **Education** Stacie Sholl; **Education-elect** Margaret Graham; **House & Grounds** Victor John; **House & Grounds-elect** Eric Klintworth; **Justice & Mercy** Lauren Muscott; **Justice & Mercy-elect** Kaye Martin; **Music, Arts & Heritage** David Mailer; **Music, Arts & Heritage-elect** Scott Jones; **Members-at-Large** Mel Prendergast & Mia Provenzano; **Nominating Committee Chair** Joe Baszynski

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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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx
Scripture readings are the New Revised Standard Version. The Psalter reading is taken from the St. Helena Psalter. © Order of Saint Helena, used by permission.



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