



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 5, 2020

The Second Sunday after Christmas

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 167 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.*

Please silence all electronic devices.

Assistive listening devices and large-print bulletins with hymns of the day are available at the Sanctuary doors. Deacons wearing white roses and Ushers wearing red roses can assist you.

Cards requesting prayer are in the Welcome Notebooks and should be placed in the offering plate.

(*) Indicates the congregation should stand as they are able.

*Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve. Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.
 'We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.'
 (Psalm 48:8)*

PRELUDE La Nativité (The Nativity) Jean Langlais
 La Crèche (The Creche)
 Les Anges (The Angels)
 Les Bergers (The Shepherds)
 La Sainte Famille (The Holy Family)

ENTER TO WORSHIP Todd Jacobson
 Leader: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
People: And also with you.
** Then all stand.*
 L: Arise, shine, for your light has come!
P: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!
 L: Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ!
P: Let us fall on our knees in his honor! Let us lift our voices in praise of his name!

* OPENING CAROL 59 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
Christmas

* INVOCATION The Rev. Lauren Emery
 L: God be with you.
P. And also with you.
 L: Let us pray.
P: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility. To you be all honor and glory, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* SONG OF PRAISE 23 Angels we have heard on high *Gloria*

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Ahrens
Please find the attendance pad in the Welcome Notebook at the end of each pew, sign it, and pass it on to your neighbor.

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
P: And also with you.
 L: Let us greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME Mark S. Williams

THE FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:7-14 (O.T. p. 734) Mr. Jacobson
 L: The Word of God for the people of God.
P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 1:3-14 (N.T. p. 192) Mr. Jacobson
 L: The Word of God for the people of God.
P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL CAROL 36 In the Bleak Midwinter *Cranham*
Children, Kindergarten through 2nd grade, are invited to Worship Connections in the Children's Library on the 2nd floor of the Education Wing. They will return after the meditation. A fully-staffed childcare ministry is provided during each Sunday Morning Worship Service and Education Hour for infants through age 4. This ministry is located in the nursery and toddler rooms on the first floor of the Education Wing.

THE GOSPEL John 1:1-18 (N.T. p. 91) Rev. Ahrens
 L: The Word of God for the people of God.
P: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION "Incarnation Inspiration" Rev. Ahrens
A time of reflection follows.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Emery
(Today, the Lord's Prayer will be prayed as part of the Communion liturgy.)

THE OFFERTORY
Want to give online? Please see the Depart to Serve leaflet for more information and a QR link.

MISSION INVITATION
 Cash and designated checks go to **Faith Mission**. Each month a team of First Congregational Church volunteers prepares a meal and serves it at Faith Mission. Your donations ensure that the team has the resources to provide a nourishing meal to those whom Faith Mission serves. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen Johannes Brahms
 (Lo, how a rose e'er blooming")

* Presentation Carol 53 Greensleeves

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. (Wheat-free rice flour bread is available on the trays, cut into circles.) Cups with the purple ribbon around them are filled with wine.

* Invitation Rev. Ahrens

* Sursum Corda Plainsong

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

* Communion Prayer

* Sanctus William Mathias

organ
 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly
 Ho - ly Lord. God of power and might, Heav'n and earth are
 organ
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation may be seated.

L: ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
P: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

(The Communion Prayer continues)

L: ... Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.
P: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

L: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.
P: 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.

L: ... Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
P: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

CAROL 37	Infant holy, infant lowly	<i>W Żłobie Leży</i>
CAROL 48	Lo, how a rose e'er blooming	<i>Es ist ein' Ros'</i>

Please remain seated for the Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Notices.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Emery

L: Let us pray.
All: 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 depart with a heart to serve.
P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING CAROL 29 Go, tell it on the mountain *Go Tell It*

* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE Noël Suisse Louis-Claude Daquin

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found welcome, peace and grace here, and invite you to return often. If you would like more information or have any questions about First Church, please ask anyone wearing a nametag. We'd be delighted to assist you. Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.

† CRUCIFER: Finnegan Miller

† ACOLYTES: Carmen Axt and Sebby Kulwicki

† MUSIC: Marti Rideout, *guest organist*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and are dedicated to the memory of Ronald Beimel from Bruce and Fran Panek. Ron's mantra was simple...show your love and joy to those you care for, every day. In the year ahead, recount the joy brought to you by your loved ones... their laughter, the music of their voices, and the joy expressed in the living of each day. Through these gifts, each of us will be better equipped to face the day to day with our own joy and wonder. Happy New Year!

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street
Rev. Emery – Ninth Street
Mr. Williams – Education Wing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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
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