

MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION
AT NINE



CHRISTMAS

Sunday, January 5, 2020
The Second Sunday after Christmas

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COLUMBUS, OHIO



THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

GATHERING TIME

Please feel free to get coffee and snacks during this time and throughout the service as needed.

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

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

* 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

Sing to God with joy - ful hearts. Praise the Lord for
ev - er - more, praise the Lord for ev - er - more.

* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 147:12–20 (*read responsively by verse*)

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

Cori Rowley

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.

At the conclusion of the reading:

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

* CANTICLE: THE SONG OF MARY

Morning Song

1. My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
 2. My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.
 3. From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,
 4. Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro - motes the in - se - cure,
 5. Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup - ports those in dis - tress,

God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar - velous ways.
 All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 dis - pens - ing jus - tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 leaves hun - gry spir - its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 re - mem - b'ring all past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 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.

At the conclusion of the reading:

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

* THE 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: That there may be purpose and fulfillment, O God, in all that we do,

P: *sung, each time*



L: That we may show others this day the love that you have taught us,

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: That the church throughout the world may respond to your call for peace and justice,

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: That those who are in need be helped and comforted,

P: Christ, have mercy.

(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.)

L: That we may be strengthened by your grace for the tasks of this day,

P: Christ, have mercy.

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.**

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 HYMN 143

On Christmas Night all Christians Sing

Sussex Carol

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

HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

* CLOSING HYMN

O Star of Wonder

Kings of Orient



POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *celebrant and preacher*

Marti Rideout, *pianist*

Cori Rowley, *pianist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 12:

PLEASE SIGN UP for Liturgist, Communion preparation and Refreshments

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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