



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 6, 2019

Epiphany

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 166 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 Three Carols John Ferguson

ENTER TO WORSHIP Janet Newcity

Leader: Blessed be God, Light of the world, bright Morning Star, and Spirit of love.

* *Then all stand.*

L: The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

P: We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.

L: The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

P: The darkness what surrounds us is gone!

L: Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

P: Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN 63 As with gladness, men of old Dix

* INVOCATION The Rev. Heather Giffen

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. 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 Rev. Ahrens

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1–6 (O.T., p. 690) Ms. Newcity

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 3:1–12 (N.T., p. 193) Ms. Newcity

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 66 We three Kings Kings of Orient

During the hymn, children in Kindergarten through Second Grade are invited to Worship Connections in the Children's Library on the second 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 four. This ministry is located in the Nursery and Toddler Rooms on the first floor of the Education Wing.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 2:1–12 (N.T., p. 2) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION "Light Shine" Rev. Ahrens

A time of reflection follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Giffen

(Today, the Lord's Prayer will be prayed as part of the Communion liturgy.)

THE OFFERTORY

MISSION INVITATION Anne Hudson

Cash and designated checks go to **Crossroad**, a residential program offered for children and youth, ages 6 to 21, with severe emotional and behavioral challenges. Community-based programs and a Mental Health Emergency Shelter are also provided. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM Noël Nouvelet arr. John Rutter

* PRESENTATION HYMN 62 Bring we the frankincense (stanza 1)
Epiphany Song

Bring we the frankincense of our love

To the feet of the holy Child,

Ever remembering God's great gift

Of a love that is undefiled.

Holy the Infant and holy the mother

And holy and precious the gifts that we bring;

Praise to Creator and praise to the Spirit

And praise to Christ Jesus our King.

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 The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 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 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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

MOTET *Reges Tharsis* John Sheppard

*Reges Tharsis et insulae munera offerent,
reges Arabum et Saba dona adducent.*

*Et adorabunt eum omnes reges terrae,
omnes gentes servient ei.*

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto...

The kings of Tharsis and the isle offer
their gifts,
the kings of Arabia and Sheba bring gifts
And all the kings of the earth worship
him, all peoples bow before him.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost...

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Giffen

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

Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN 67 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

Morning Star

* BENECTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Epiphany

Gaston Litaize

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 Fellowship
Hour in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.*

ACOLYTES: Ethan Murray & Alyssia Palmer

CRUCIFER: Miriam Myers

MUSIC: The First Church Chamber Choir, Kevin Jones, *organist & director*

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in
celebration of Gerry Worth's birthday by Marty Worth.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens

Ninth Street – Rev. Giffen

Education Wing – Marty Worth

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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, believe the following represents our commitment and desire to reach out and welcome all those in need of and searching for God's love: We believe that we are all created in God's image, female and male, and we are called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, and called to unite all people in God's love. We welcome and affirm all people. We invite those who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join us on our common journey. Our faith community seeks to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, mental and physical abilities, socioeconomic levels and political and theological 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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