



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 13, 2019

The Baptism of Christ

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 *Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam, BWV 684* J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP Lynn Wallich

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

* *Then all stand.*

L: Our God is a God of power and strength!

P: God has created each of us with tender care.

L: Our God is a God of majesty and awe!

P: God walks with each of us every step of the way.

L: Our God is a God of glory and wonder!

P: God loves each of us with tenderness and passion.

L: Our God calls us each by name.

P: God calls each of us to unite in worship together!

* OPENING HYMN 474 O Splendor of God's Glory Bright
Puer nobis nascitur

* INVOCATION The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine
*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

LITANY OF BAPTISMAL AFFIRMATION Rev. Ahrens, Rev. Corzine

L: Lord and life-giving Spirit, who brooded over the waters when first the world began:

All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

L: Who led your people out of slavery through the waters of the Red Sea and into freedom through the waters of the Jordan: who overshadowed Mary of Nazareth and caused her to be the mother of Jesus.

All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

L: Who anointed Jesus as Messiah as he was baptized by John in the Jordan: Who raised Jesus Christ from the grave and proclaimed Christ "Son of God" in all power over the living and the dead.

All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

L: Who appeared in tongues of flame on Pentecost: Who charges the waters of baptism through and through with power to give new life.

All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

L: Lord, hear our prayer.

All: Let our cry come to You.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER OF BAPTISM Rev. Corzine

Please stand.

* THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS Rev. Ahrens

As we sing, Rev. Ahrens will share the water of baptism with all using these words:

Leader: Remember your baptism and keep it holy.

All: Amen.

We have put on Christ this day, sing al - le - lu - ia and re - joice.

We have been bap - tized in Him; sing al - le - lu - ia and re - joice.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia!

* CLOSING PRAYER Rev. Corzine

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who out of pure mercy decreed both the creation and the renewal of the world, be present and active in the sacraments which you have instituted for our salvation. Send forth the Spirit of adoption in full measure that those who are born of water and the Spirit may live under the power of the same Spirit all the days of their life and so arrive safely in their heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated for the Readings.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 43:1-7 (O.T. p. 672) Dr. Wallich

L: May Light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 8:14-17 (N.T. p. 126) Dr. Wallich

L: May Light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN O Thou Who Camest From Above *Hereford*

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 sermon. 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.

1. O thou who cam - est from a - bove
 2. There let it for thy glo - ry burn
 3. Je - sus, con - firm my heart's de - sire
 the fire - ce - les - tial to - im - part,
 with ev - er bright, un - dy - ing blaze,
 to work, and speak, and think for thee;
 kin - dle a flame of sa - cred love
 and trem - bling to its source re - turn
 still let me guard the ho - ly fire
 up - on the al - tar of my heart
 in hum - ble prayer and fer - vent praise
 and still stir up the gift in me

THE GOSPEL Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (N.T. p. 60) Rev. Corzine

L: May Light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "In Deep" Rev. Corzine

A time of reflection follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens

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.**

THE OFFERTORY

MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Corzine

Cash and designated checks go to **Church World Service Water Systems**. CWS joins communities to help build and maintain a variety of water systems – from sand dams to wells to reservoirs – that draw upon rainwater or underground sources. Food security and nutrition improve when clean, stable water sources help diversify crops. Health improves because clean water means less disease. Displacement decreases as people no longer have to abandon their communities because of the lack of drinking water. And ultimately, standards of living rise because people spend less time searching for water and more time on other activities, such as getting an education or earning a living. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

The Magi's Dream

James Whitbourn

Night has come to Bethlehem,
The family is asleep,
Exhausted by the wonders seen, The news outrageous, deep.
'That I may come and worship him.'

Ox and ass have closed their eyes,
Their ears now hear no sound.
Shepherds have gone back to their flocks, The mouse still noses around.
'That I may come and worship him.'

Kings have left for their distant lands,
Fractious camels moan.
At a desert spring they make their farewells. 'It's a mighty way to home!'
'That I may come and worship him.'

Later that night their heads are filled
With a dream-drenched holy ray.
'Do not return to Herod the king, Go back another way.'
'That I may come and worship him.'

And so our Christ is saved from death His mission to complete
To change the world by selfless love Satan's legions to beat.
—Robert Tear (1939–2011)

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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx

* 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.***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Ahrens

COMMUNITY NOTICES – DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN 361

How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE

Prelude in C Major, BWV 547

Bach

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: Sebby Kulwicki and Maggie Myers

† CRUCIFER: Finnegan Miller

† MUSIC: The First Church Choir, Kevin Jones, *organist and director*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the lives of Marjorie Kufel, mother of Sharon Leidheiser, and Gene Dahnke, father of Mark Dahnke, by the Staff of First Congregational Church.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Corzine

Ninth Street – Rev. Ahrens

Education Wing – Mr. Williams

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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