



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 14, 2018

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 165 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 green nametags can assist you.

Cards requesting prayer are in the pew racks and 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 *Sicilienne* (Suite, Op. 5) Maurice Duruflé

ENTER TO WORSHIP Tom Brownfield

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

* *Then all stand.*

L: Beautiful are the works of God!

P: Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!

L: Beautiful is the mind of God!

P: Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!

L: Beautiful is the heart of God!

P: Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!

L: God made the heavens and the earth!

P: To God be the glory for the things God has done.

Adapted: Trinity UCC, Chicago IL

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 563 Lift every voice and sing *Lift Every Voice*

* INVOCATION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, Jr., may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* SONG OF PRAISE 411 Arise, your light is come! *Festal Song*

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens
 L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME Rev. Corzine

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 3:1–10 (O.T. p. 247) Mr. Brownfield

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM At the River arr. Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river,
 Where bright angel's feet have trod,
 With its crystal tide forever
 Flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather by the river,
 The beautiful, the beautiful river,
 Gather with the saints by the river
 That flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
 Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
 Soon our happy hearts will quiver
 With the melody of peace.

Yes, we'll gather by the river,
 The beautiful, the beautiful river,
 Gather with the saints by the river
 That flows by the throne of God.
 —Robert Lowry (1826–1899)

THE EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 6:12–20 (N.T. p. 169) Mr. Brownfield

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 404 Precious Lord, take my hand *Precious Lord*
During the hymn, Children, Kindergarten through 2nd grade, are invited to the Worship Connections in the Children's Library on the 2nd floor of the Education Wing. They will return after the baptismal 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 1:43–51 (N.T. p. 92) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Why We Can't Wait" Rev. Ahrens

A time of reflection follows.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Corzine

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

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

MISSION INVITATION Antoinette Beynen

Cash and designated checks go to **B.R.E.A.D.** We are all members of the BREAD organization – Building Responsibility Equality And Dignity. Your gifts are needed to help us build a strong justice ministry in Columbus. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM Prayer of the Children Kurt Bestor, arr. Andrea Klause

Can you hear the prayer of the children
 on bended knee, in the shadow of an unknown room?
 Empty eyes with no more tears to cry
 turning heavenward toward the light.
 Cryin' Jesus help me
 to see the mornin' light of one more day,
 but if I should die before I wake,
 I pray my soul to take.
 Can you feel the hearts of the children
 aching for home, for something of their very own.
 Reaching hands with nothing to hold onto
 but hope for a better day, a better day.
 Cryin' Jesus help me
 to feel the love again in my own land,
 but if unknown roads lead away from home,
 give me loving arms, 'way from harm.
 Can you hear the voice of the children
 softly pleading for silence in their shattered world?
 Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate,
 blood of the innocent on their hands.
 Cryin' Jesus, help me
 to feel the sun again upon my face?
 For when darkness clears, I know you're near,
 bringing peace again.
 Can you hear the prayer of the children?

* PRESENTATION HYMN Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
 sung to *Duke Street*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
 Praise Christ, all creatures here below.
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
 Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Rev. Corzine

Please be seated for the Notices.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. Corzine

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN 332

Live into hope

Truro

* BENECTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Épiphanie

Gaston Litaize

Please be seated for the postlude

Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found 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 name-tag. We'd be delighted to assist you. Please join us for Fellowship Time in the Parish Hall.

CRUCIFER: Adam Wade

ACOLYTES: Finnegan Miller & Caroline Thompson

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

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by the Flower Fund of First Congregational Church. If you would like to dedicate the Sanctuary flowers, please sign up on the 2018 flower chart on the bulletin board outside the church office.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Rev. Corzine – Ninth Street

Marty Worth – Christian Education wing

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.

Our 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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