



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 20, 2019

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 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 Prelude, Fugue and Variation César Franck

ENTER TO WORSHIP Anthony Brown

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

** Then all stand.*

L: No matter how far we wander from you, O God,

P: your steadfast love finds us.

L: No matter how unjust the world seems to us, O God,

P: your steadfast righteousness sustains us.

L: No matter how vulnerable our lives seem to us, O God,

P: your steadfast presence gives us hope.

L: No matter how unloved and uncared for we feel, O God,

P: you hear our cries and answer our prayers. Thanks be to God!

* 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.

* 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 Mark S. Williams

* BAPTISM HYMN Hymn of Water and Spirit (*stanzas 1 and 2*)
O Waly, Waly

1. When you were born, our hearts took wing,
 2. Re - mem - ber now this grace, this gift,
 3. Far from this font, your feet will trod,
 4. Hold fast to what is good and true,
 5. When time has passed, and you are old,

to dance and laugh, to love and sing.
 as we our voice, and spi - rits lift.
 in hard times you may ques - tion God.
 Bring hurt to none, for hur - ting you.
 with no one's ba - by left to hold,

You made our lives com - plete in joy,
 We hold you close to shield life's hurt,
 But ne'er for - get this wa - ter gift,
 Streng - then the weak, up - hold the poor,
 thank God and walk your fi - nal mile,

come now re - ceive this wa - ter joy.
 and ce - le - brate your se - cond birth.
 And let God's spi - rit heal all rifts.
 And live your faith for - ev - er more.
 live in E - ter - nal bliss and smile.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR
 THEODORE WILLIAM KRUK

We welcome Theodore, parents David & Sarah, and Senior Deacon Janet Newcity. Members and friends are invited to write a prayer and greeting to Theodore on the baptismal cards found in the Welcome Notebooks. Please write his name at the top and today's date on the bottom of the card. Please place the cards in the offering plate at the time of the Offertory.

WELCOME
 Leader: . . . But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,
People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

ADDRESS
 L: . . . the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.
P: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

* CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT
The congregation is invited to stand.
 L: . . . Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as Theodore lives and grows in Christ?
P: We promise our love, support, and care.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
 L: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.
 Do you believe in God?
P: I believe in God.
 L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
P: I believe in Jesus Christ.
 L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
P: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM
 L: Christ be with you.
P: And also with you.
 L: Let us pray.

ACT OF BAPTISM

NAMING OF THE CHILD
 L: Theodore William Kruk, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Rise from the waters of baptism and give glory to God all the days of your life.
P: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED
 L: Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this newest member of the body of Christ.
P: Give to Theodore strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

* BAPTISM HYMN Hymn of Water and Spirit (*stanzas 3-5*) *O Waly, Waly*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 62:1-5 (O.T. p. 692) Mr. Brown
 L: May Light break forth on God's Holy Word.
P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM For Love Shall Be Our Song Douglas Wagner
 Refrain: *God is love, God is peace, God is joy and gladness. May we then live our lives in love, in peace, in joy with Christ our Lord.*
 For love shall be our song, as we lift our hearts to the Lord; so as members of the family of God, rejoice, give thanks and praise. And when others do us wrong, patience we will show, to forgive as Christ did us; seeds of love we'll sow.
Refrain
 —Colossians 3:12-15

THE EPISTLE I Corinthians 12:1–11 (N.T. p. 174) Mr. Brown
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 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 John 2:1–11 (N.T. p. 93) Rev. Ahrens
L: May Light break forth on God's Holy Word.
P: Thanks be to God.

BAPTISMAL MEDITATION "Why We Can't Wait' All Over Again"
Rev. Ahrens

A time of reflection follows.

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

MISSION INVITATION Bruce Panek
Cash and designated checks go to **Faith Mission Meal Team**. 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.

ANTHEM Isaiah the Prophet Austin Lovelace
Isaiah the prophet has written of old
how God's earthly kingdom shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
The mountains and hills shall break forth into song,
the peoples be led forth in peace;
for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the seas.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world,
and conflict turns parent from child.
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;
the briar and thorn tree grow wild.
Lord, hasten to bring in your kingdom on earth,
when no one shall hurt or destroy,
when wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
and your people shall go forth in joy.
—Joy Patterson

* 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. Corzine

COMMUNITY NOTICES – DEPART TO SERVE Mr. Williams
L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN 440 In Christ There Is No East or West *McKee*

* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE Toccata in B-flat Minor Louis Vierne

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: Ruby Holt and Jack Patterson

† CRUCIFER: Alex Palmer

† MUSIC: The Jubilate Choir, Sandra Mathias, *director*; The Exultate Choir, Kevin Jones, *organist and director*; Brianna Burkett, *flutist*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of Hugh and Douglas Stephens by Gleva Stephens.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens

Ninth Street – Rev. Corzine

Education Wing – Mr. Williams

ANNUAL MEETING IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

A reminder that next Sunday, January 27, there will be **one service at 10 a.m.** in order to accommodate the Annual Meeting at 11 a.m. Please make every effort to attend this important event in the life of the Congregation. Please see the *Depart to Serve* leaflet for the nominations slate.

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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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx



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