



WORSHIP AT TEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 28, 2018

The Fourth 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 white roses 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 *Grazioso* Vivaldi/arr. Thompson

ENTER TO WORSHIP Kent Shimeall

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

** Then all stand.*

L: Come, let us praise the Lord!

P: We praise God with our whole heart!

L: God's works are great!

P: Open our hearts and spirits to see your works, O Lord!

L: Come, let us worship the Lord who has saved us!

P: May our lives reflect the wondrous love of God that all may see and know of God's greatness. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 488 The God of Abraham Praise *Leoni*

* INVOCATION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Please find the attendance pad at the end of the 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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 18:15–20 (O.T., p. 174) Mr. Shimeall

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

P: Thanks be to God.

MOTET Almighty and everlasting God Orlando Gibbons

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

–Collect for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany

THE EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 8:1–13 (N.T., p. 171) Mr. Shimeall

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 335 Though I may speak *O Waly, Waly*

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 Mark 1:21–28 (N.T., p. 35) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Teaching With Authority" 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 Marty Worth

Cash and designated checks go to **The Good Samaritan Emergency Help Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to the door of First Church in need. The next Good Sam Day is **Monday, February 12**. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM He comes to us Jane Marshall

He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lake-side; He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: 'Follow thou me!' and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is.

O Morning Star, how fair and bright

Thou beamest forth in truth and light!

O Sovereign meek and lowly.

Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son,

My Lord and Master, Thou hast won

My heart to serve Thee solely!

Thou art holy, Fair and glorious, all victorious, Rich in blessing,

Rule and might o'er all possessing.

—Albert Schweitzer (*The Quest for the Historical Jesus*); Nicolai, trans. Catherine Winkworth

* 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 Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN 423 Jesus shall reign *Duke Street*

* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

There is no Postlude today because of the Annual Congregational Meeting that follows immediately. You are invited to move forward and sit in the front section of the Nave.

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 stay for the Annual Meeting held in the Nave immediately following worship.

CRUCIFER: Dylan Hopcraft

ACOLYTES: Ben Mailer & Mae Hubbard

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

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding anniversary of Joseph Bellissimo and Kevin Jones.

GREETING AT THE BROAD STREET EXIT TODAY: Rev. Corzine

ANNUAL MEETING IS TODAY, JANUARY 28

A reminder that today, January 28, is the Annual Meeting immediately following 10 a.m. worship.
Please make every effort to stay for this important event in the life of this Congregation.

2018 NOMINATIONS SLATE

Below is the 2018 nominating slate that will be submitted for approval at the annual meeting immediately following 10 a.m. worship this morning. The persons holding the elect or assistant positions are expected to move up the following year. The constitution requires public notice of these nominations at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

OFFICERS

MODERATOR	JOE BASZYNSKI
MODERATOR ELECT	LYNN WALLICH
TREASURER	JOE HOFFMAN
ASSISTANT TREASURER	MATT MYERS
SECRETARY	NANCY LOY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	TBD

COMMISSIONERS

ADMINISTRATION	CHRIS GLAROS
ADMINISTRATION ELECT	GREG KELLISON
CHURCH GROWTH/VITALITY	TOM KIESEL & MARY ANNE JACOBSON
CHURCH GROWTH/VITALITY ELECT	MARIA BROWN & LISA FRAVEL DEAN
EDUCATION	CHRIS GELPI
EDUCATION ELECT	JENNIFER PROVENZANO
HOUSE & GROUNDS	GARY LEIDHEISER
HOUSE & GROUNDS ELECT	MARK BROWN
JUSTICE & MERCY	DAWN GEORGE
JUSTICE & MERCY ELECT	NICOLE MOSS
MUSIC, ARTS & HERITAGE	JOEL MATHIAS
MUSIC, ARTS & HERITAGE ELECT	DREW WADE

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

YOUTH AT-LARGE	MIRIAM MYERS
MEMBER AT-LARGE	PAVAN PETER

NOMINATING CHAIR	BRIAN CAVE
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DEACON (5), 3-YEAR TERM	SHELLY GIES
	DAYNA McCRARY
	CORI PAGE
	ALLISON LOWERY PALMER
	JAMES VELO

TRUSTEE (2), 4-YEAR TERM	MARY LIGHTBODY
	JOHN MARTIN

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)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885
PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741
WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG

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