



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 7, 2021

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 168 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.*

*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 on the Introit for Epiphany, Op. 13

Maurice Duruflé

WELCOME

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Mark S. Williams

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

People: And we have seen his glory.

** Then all stand.*

L: Come, rejoice and sing! God's love is showered over you this day.

P: We gather to praise God and celebrate God's presence with us.

L: God shows compassion to all who are weak and downtrodden.

P: Jesus Christ offers healing mercies to our troubled souls.

L: Praise be to God who has called us here.

P: Thanks be to God for God's eternal love. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN

At the Name of Jesus

King's Weston

1. At the name of Je - sus ev' - ry knee shall bow,
 2. Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 3. Bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4. Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,

ev' - ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now.
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 with cre - a - tion's glo - ry, o'er the earth to reign;

'Tis Cre - a - tor's pleas - ure we should call him Lord,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 to the throne of God - head, to Cre - a - tor's breast;
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,

who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed.
 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sin, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Corzine

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mr. Williams

A reading from the book of Isaiah, chapter 40.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? God who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because God is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. God does not faint or grow weary; God’s understanding is unsearchable. God gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

L: May light break forth on God’s Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

arr. Shaw/Parker

Exultate Choir (*pre-recorded*)

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms,
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh! there are ten thousand charms.

Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above,
Praise the mount, I’m fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Come, thou fount of ev’ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace,
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
—Traditional

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

Mrs. Palmer

A reading from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 9.

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

L: May light break forth on God’s Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

1. O God, in a mys - te - rious way Great won - ders you per - form;
 2. Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines Of nev - er - fail - ing skill
 3. O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The clouds you so much dread
 4. Our un - be - lief is sure to err And scan your work in vain;

You plant your foot - steps in the sea And rise up - on the storm.
 You trea - sure up your bright de - signs, And work your sov - ereign will.
 Are big with mer - cy and shall break In bless - ings on your head.
 You are your own in - ter - pret - er, And you will make it plain.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:29–39

Rev. Corzine

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark, chapter 1.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"Weary Saints"

Rev. Corzine

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens

THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Corzine

Designated gifts go to **Deep Griha**. Deep Griha, in Pune, India, a mission partner with First Church, is a charitable organization working to improve the lives of people living in the slums of Pune. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

The Holy Eucharist
(pre-recorded)

William H. Harris

Him holy In him abide Eternal soul In him you hide All your sin On God laid bare
Receiving life He longs to share.
Him holy In him abide O Christian souls His body live Who in him To Father make The sacrifice Of Incarnate.
Him holy In him abide Heaven home In him alive Holy love One body make
Joying souls New blessing wake.
—Douglas J. L. Bean

* 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.

* INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

L: God be with you.
P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
P: We lift them to the Lord.
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets. We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name:

P: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

L: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things. In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Eat this, for it is the body of Christ, broken for you.

Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Corzine

L: Let us pray.

P: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Beach Spring



1. God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, From your rich and end - less store,
2. Skills and time are ours for press - ing Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
3. Trea - sure too you have en - trust - ed, Gain through powers your grace con - ferred;

Na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, Cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door:
All at peace in health and free - dom, Rac - es joined, the church made one.
Ours to use for home and kin - dred, And to spread the gos - pel Word.

Gift - ed by you, we turn to you, Of - fering up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, Lest we strive for self a - lone;
O - pen wide our hands, in shar - ing, As we heed Christ's age - less call,

Thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, Gra - cious do - nor of our days.
Born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants Fit to an - swer at your throne.
Heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, Serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in F Major

Vincent Lübeck

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY
The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *celebrant*
The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *preacher*
Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*
Allison Lowery Palmer, *reader*
Melissa Lawson, *soloist*
Kevin Jones, *organist*
Peter Murray, *livestream engineer*

Please join us on ZOOM for a virtual coffee hour immediately following this service.

[Click HERE to be taken to this meeting.](#)

ZOOM meeting ID: 884 9421 6574

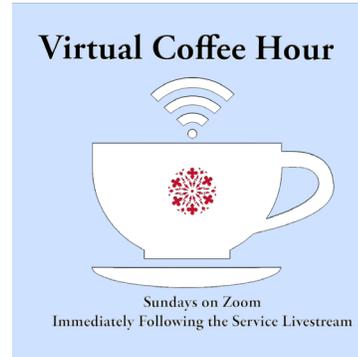
Password: 693317

Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

February 7, 2021

This Week at First Church

2/7	
9 a.m.	Worship
9:45 a.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour
11 a.m.	Worship
12 Noon	Virtual Coffee Hour
12:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m.	Youth Connections
2/8	
9 a.m.	Good Samaritan
7 p.m.	Trustees Mtg
2/9	
7 p.m.	Executive Committee Mtg
2/10	
5:45 p.m.	Personnel Committee Mtg
2/11	
8 a.m.	Warming Center
7 p.m.	Security Team Mtg
7:30 p.m.	First Church Choir Zoom Rehearsal
2/12	
8 a.m.	Warming Center



Immediately following each of the Worship Livestreams, grab a cup of coffee and a cookie, and head to the Virtual Parish Hall for Zoom Coffee Hour! Click the link below to join in.

9 a.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526?pwd=L014R-1dIdmE4UzIUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09>

-
Meeting ID: 865 2790 7526
Password: 601438

11 a.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88494216574?pwd=cDN-VS0dKaEdvTGhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09>

-
Meeting ID: 884 9421 6574
Password: 693317

First Church Book Club

Everyone is welcome to join the First Church Book Club. The Book Club has changed its meeting day to the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. The selections for the next two months are

February 10: *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride

March 10: *Betty* by Tiffany McDaniel

For more information or Zoom links, email Elaine Warren at melainewarren232@gmail.com

2021 Lenten Sermon Series “The Journey Back to Love” by Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

When my great uncle the Rev. Dr. Willis Mathias preached his final sermon after 41 years of faithful service at Emmanuel UCC in Allentown, PA, his sermon was on Love. Using I Corinthians 13 as his text for the day, Uncle Willis spoke of the love he felt for his congregation where his ministry had spanned four decades. He called them to love one another, to love their neighbors as they loved themselves, and above all things, to love God.

When I spoke with Uncle Willis later about this sermon he said, “there was nothing left to say except, ‘I love.’” Speaking of the beloved Senior Minister of First Church, the Rev. Dr. Boynton Merrill, Henrietta Henderson once told me with a big smile, “Dr. Merrill only had one sermon. It was love.” Amen!

We will begin our Lenten journey on **Ash Wednesday, February 17 at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.** Our Lenten theme will be “The Journey Back to Love.” As we continue to walk through these times together, let us love ourselves, love one another, love our neighbors, and love God. Our Lenten Journey will last 40 days and then through Holy Week and Easter, we will walk in love together. Please join me on our journey back to love.

All my love to you,

Tim Ahrens



Drive By for Lent at Home Kit

Mark your calendar to attend the Drive By for Lent at Home Kit on **Sunday, February 14, from 1-2:30 p.m.** in the North parking lot. Each family will receive a “Lent at Home Kit” resource kit plus more! We only have 100 bags so plan to get there early. The staff and volunteers will greet you as you drive by the north side of the church. *We ask you to enter from Cleveland Ave. by CCAD and follow the arrows. We will be stationed by the back of the Education Wing Doors. Due to COVID and church protocols, everyone must stay in their car during this event.*

Health Care Workers: Notes of Appreciation

We are partnering with OhioHealth to give words of encouragement to health care staff during this challenging time. Hold them in your daily prayers. Anyone can participate (use crayons, pictures, stickers, etc.). Offer words of kindness, wish them patience or courage or thank them for their sacrifice during this difficult time.

Address your note:
Health Care Worker
c/o First Congregational Church, UCC
444 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Rev. Emily has more information if you need; contact her at ecorzine@first-church.org. There is no deadline, as we will be collecting these on an ongoing basis through the winter months!

Emergency Pastoral Care Line

If you need to be in touch with Rev. Ahrens or Rev. Corzine, for emergency pastoral care or name a prayer request, please call **614-733-4547** and leave a message. Someone will return your call as needed.

Should you need to reach either pastor directly for a time to chat, discuss pastoral concerns or have prayer, Rev. Tim can be reached by church voicemail at 614-228-1741 ext. 13, or email at tahrens@first-church.org.

Rev. Emily has virtual office hours at 10 a.m. on Thursdays. These are 20-minute blocks beginning at 10 a.m. Contact Rev. Emily for a time slot at ecorzine@first-church.org.

Keep in Prayer

Angela Evans and Courter Shimeall; Derek Schmitt; Mark Williams; Barbara Sterrett; Tom Bishop; Lindy Miller; and Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz.

Our members diagnosed and recovering from COVID-19 including Malcolm Giffen; Jack Koscher; Alejandro, Carol, Olivia, Nathan and wife Robyn Rodriguez; Eric Klintworth; Joe, Jenny, Mia and Matty Provenzano; Lesley and Karl Schaab; and Trish Bishop.

Stephanie Childs, sister of Martha Huey; Robert and Carol Simms, parents of Shelly Gies; Jan Lanier, friend of Susie Loik; Laurie Lindquist, postmaster at Chautauqua and friend of Lyle Barkhimer; Shirley Clark, friend of Melva Fisher; Virginia Bethke, mother of Jonathan Bethke; Olive Weller, grandmother of Gretchen Weller; Jonathan and Will Nirote, son and grandson of Bill and Arevena Nirote; Bob Prickett, friend of Steve Ferris; Michael Swift, son of Jilda Swift; Tom and Susan Murrell, friends of Joe Bellissimo; Erna Temple, mother of David Temple; Dwight and Elaine Holt, parents of David Holt; and Jane Mead, mother of Cindy Deliman.

Those who mourn the loss of loved ones: Hugh Schultz on the death of his wife, Dana Navin Schultz, and on the sudden death of Dana's daughter, Elizabeth (Bethany) Navin, and the death of Dana's nephew, Mark Federer.

Those affected by COVID-19 in our nation and our world, including: Monica Depinet, sister of Tom Gies; Joannie, sister of Melanie Brown; Tom and Anne Lanier and Lois and PJ Connor, Susie Loik's friend Jan Lanier's family; Betty Garrison, mother of Kim Hopcraft; John White, father of Kate Erickson; Rev. Mark Diemer and son Joshua, friend and colleague of Rev. Tim Ahrens; Saphira Shuttlesworth, friend of Rev. Tim Ahrens; and Ellen and Paul Poppleton, sister and brother-in-law of Mary Anne Jacobson.

Those who mourn the loss of loved ones due to COVID-19: Lanier Holt on the death of his mother, Ada Mae Holt; Matt Stevens and Jim Velo on the death of Matt's father, Gary Stevens; and Melva Fisher on the death of family member Theron Bittle.

Give

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to “Enter to worship, depart to serve.” You can support the mission and ministry of First Church now by scanning the QR Code presented below, using either EasyTithe or PayPal, by visiting www.first-church.org/give.aspx, or by sending your offering directly to First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@first-church.org.



Designated gifts go to Deep Griha. Deep Griha, in Pune, India, a mission partner with First Church, is a charitable organization working to improve the lives of people living in the slums of Pune. Thank you for your generosity.

Visit <https://deepgriha.org> to learn more about Deep Griha

Upcoming Mission Offerings

February 14 LSS CHOICES
February 21 Faith Mission
February 28 Crossroad Family and Child Services

Church Leadership

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, M.Div., D. Min.

Associate Minister Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div.

Minister of Music Kevin Jones, M.M., M.S.E.

Director of Christian Education Mark S. Williams, M.Ed.

Administrative Manager Amy Wagner

Office Assistant Pat Patterson

Communications Consultant Melissa Kulwicki

Business Administrator Annette McCormick

Building and Grounds Superintendent Mark Dahnke

Building and Grounds Assistant Darrell Cross

Custodian Jimmy Sibrian

Wedding Coordinators Amy Wagner, Janet Newcity, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Katie Wagner

Nursery Staff Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor, Blessing Weekly, Miranda Gumbita

Senior Deacon Al Waddell

Deacons Carol Ernst-King, Sarah Giffen, Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, Nancy Kreimer, James Lowe, Allison Lowery Palmer, Mark Sholl, Andrew Smith-VerHage, Hank Wilson, Martha Wilson, Marty Worth, Donice Wooster

Church Council Leadership

Moderator Alec Deitz; **Moderator-elect** Christine Farquhar;

Treasurer Dennis Secor; **Treasurer-elect** Andy Bensing;

Secretary Peter Murray; **Secretary-elect** Nicole Moss

Board of Trustees

Chairperson Brian Cave

Trustees Allen Baker, Alec Deitz, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Kevin Cubick (Secretary), Beth Iannarino, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren, Christopher Washington

Commissioners

Administration Brad West; **Administration-elect** Dayna McCrary; **Church Growth** Elisha Hardekopf; **Church**

Growth-elect Geoff Smith-VerHage; **Church Vitality** Lee Kiesel; **Church Vitality-elect** Kosby Carrico;

Education Margaret Graham; **Education-elect** Linda Slocum; **House & Grounds** Eric Klintworth; **House & Grounds-elect**

Mark Brown; **Justice & Mercy** Lauren Muscott; **Justice & Mercy-elect** Kris Brant; **Music, Arts & Heritage** Scott Jones;

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect Sandy Mathias;

Members-at-Large Jonathan Miller and Finn Miller;

Nominating Committee Chair Lynn Wallich

Welcome Statement

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

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, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith 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

Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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