



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
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.*

The liturgy of Morning Prayer is a form of daily worship adapted through the ages that has its earliest roots in our Jewish heritage. Its premise is one of praying to God at the beginning of the day, giving thanks for another day ahead. The service falls roughly into three main parts: Opening sentences and singing/reading of the Psalms; readings from Holy Scripture—usually one from the Hebrew texts, and one from the Gospels—interspersed with ancient songs of the church; and prayers. To this we add Holy Communion, bringing further meaning to the totality of the prayers we have already offered. The liturgy presupposes full and hearty congregational involvement in the spoken and sung responses, preparing us to be sent forth from this house of worship into the wider world to live out the Great Commission.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, the life and light of humanity.

People: Great is God's love for us. Alleluia!

Please stand as you are able

(indicates Congregation standing)*

* THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

L: O God, open our lips.

P: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

L: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

* OPENING SONG

I Sing As I Arise Today

Seed of Life



1. I sing as I a - rise to - day! I call on my Cre - a - tor's might:
 2. The word of God to be my speech, The hand of God to be my stay,
 3. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



The will of God to be my guide, The eye of God to be my sight.
 The shield of God to be my strength, The path of God to be my way.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

L: Alleluia! How good it is to sing praises to you, O God; how pleasant it is to honor you with praise!

P: For you rebuild Jerusalem and gather the exiles of Israel.

L: You heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds.

P: You count the number of the stars and call them all by their names.

L: Great are you and mighty in power; there is no limit to your wisdom.

P: You lift up the lowly, but cast the wicked to the ground.

L: We sing to you, Most High, with thanksgiving; we make music to you upon the harp,

P: For you cover the heavens with clouds and prepare rain for the earth;

L: You make grass to grow upon the mountains and green plants to serve humankind.

P: You provide food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry.

L: You are not impressed by the might of a horse; you have no pleasure in human strength;

P: But you have pleasure in those who fear you, in those who await your gracious favor. Alleluia!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Corzine

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mark S. Williams

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:21–31

Rev. Ahrens

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.

Today we sing stanzas 1 and 5.

1. A - rise, shine out, your light has come, un - fold - ing
 2. A - bove earth's val - leys, thick with night, high on your
 3. From walls sur - pass - ing time and space un - num - bered
 4. The sounds of vi - o - lence shall cease as dwell - ings
 5. The danc - ing air shall glow with light, and sun and

ci - ty of our dreams. On dis - tant hills a
 walls the dawn ap - pears, and his - to - ry shall
 gates, like o - pen hands, shall gath - er gifts from
 of sal - va - tion rise, to spar - kle in e -
 moon give up their place, when love shines out of

glo - ry gleams: the new cre - a - tion has be - gun.
 dry its tears, as na - tions stream towards your light.
 all the lands, and wel - come all the hu - man race.
 ter - nal skies from av - e - nues of praise and peace.
 ev - ery face, our good, our glo - ry, and de - light.

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

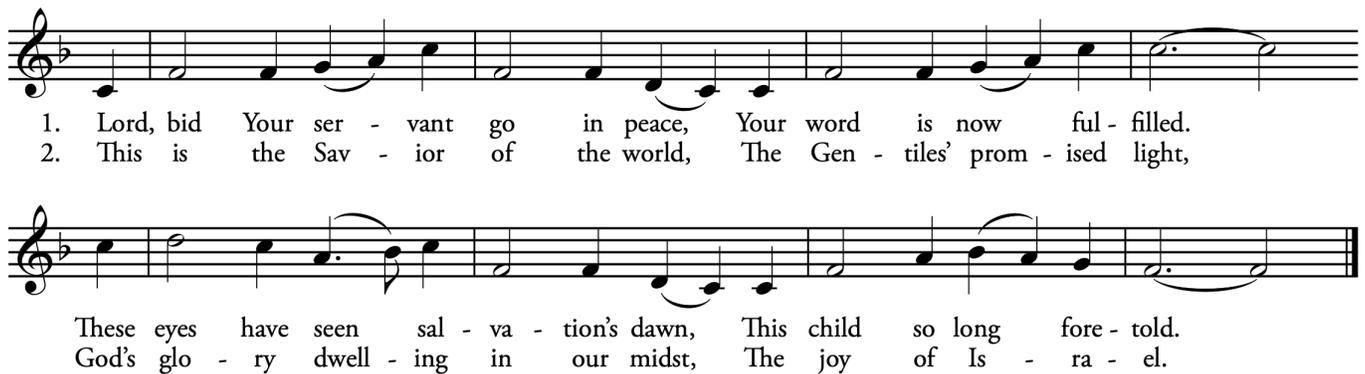
As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, 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.**

* CANTICLE: SONG OF SIMEON

Land of Rest



1. Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace, Your word is now ful - filled.
 2. This is the Sav - ior of the world, The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light,
 These eyes have seen sal - va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
 God's glo - ry dwell - ing in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.

HOMILY

"Weary Saints"

Rev. Corzine

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

P: **Almighty God, you have given us the Word in flesh. Let the Word be the wisdom for all that we do in our lives; through Jesus Christ, this Word, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, the members, family, and friends who are listed in the Depart to Serve and whom we hold in our hearts in prayer. As directed, you are invited to pray silently or aloud for those needs and concerns you have.)

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us in this day's journey. Use our hands to do the work of your creation, and use our lives to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, redeemer of all. **Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

Want 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.

OFFERTORY HYMN

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

Wareham

1. O ra - diant Christ, in - car - nate Word,
 2. Our bar - tered, bus - y lives burn dim,
 3. Your glo - ry shone at Jor - dan's stream,
 4. O Light of Na - tions, fill the earth;

e - ter - nal love re - vealed in time:
 too tired to care, too numb to feel.
 the font where we were born a - new.
 our faith and hope and love re - new.

Come, make your home with - in our hearts,
 Come, shine up - on our shad - owed world:
 At - tune your church to know you near;
 Come, lead the peo - ples to your peace,

that we may dwell in light sub - lime.
 your ra - diance bathes with power to heal.
 il - lu - mine all we say and do.
 as stars once led the way to you.

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Ahrens

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

L: Let us sing the closing hymn as we depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN

Many are the Lightbeams

Lightbeams

Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light. Our one light is Je- sus.____

Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light; we are one in Christ.____

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE



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

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

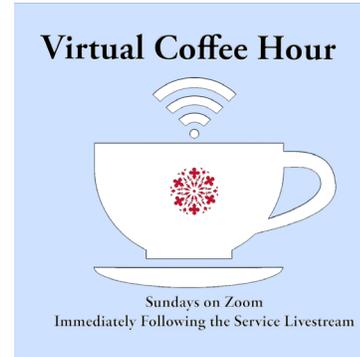
ZOOM meeting ID: 865 2790 7526
Password: 601438

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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