



**WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

February 16, 2020

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 167 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 Dawn Hymn Alan Hovhaness

ENTER TO WORSHIP Elaine Warren

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

* *Then all stand.*

L: Happy are those who walk in God's ways.

P: Blessed are those who observe God's commandments.

L: Faithful are those whose eyes are fixed on righteousness.

P: Joyful are those whose hearts are filled with praise.

L: Come, let us love the Lord our God.

P: We come to worship the One who leads us in the ways of life.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 482 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty
Lobe den Herren

* INVOCATION Ms. Warren

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments, we may please you both in will and deed through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. 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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 30:15–20 (O.T. p. 186)
Ms. Warren

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 3:1–9 (N.T. p. 167) Ms. Warren

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 367 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love *Chereponi*
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 sermon. 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 Matthew 5:21–37 (N.T. p. 4) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "The Choices We Make" Rev. Ahrens
A time of reflection follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Ms. Warren

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 Elisha Hardekopf
Cash and designated checks go to **BREAD**. BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, And Dignity) is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 23-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. BREAD rises! Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM There Is A Balm Spiritual, arr. Marie Pooler
Refrain: There is a Balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, There is a Balm in Gilead, to heal the sinsick soul.

Some times I feel discouraged, And think my work in vain, But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain.*

Don't ever feel discouraged, Our Father is our friend; And if you lack the knowledge, He'll not refuse to lend. *Refrain.*

You may not preach like Peter, You may not pray like Paul, But you can tell the story of him who died for all. *Refrain.*

* PRESENTATION HYMN Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
sung to *Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleuia!

Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Rev. Ahrens

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 430 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! *Darwall's 148th*

Please be seated for the Commissioning.

COMMISSIONING OF 2020 OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH Rev. Ahrens

BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE Pasticcio Jean Langlais

Please remain 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 Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.

† ACOLYTES: Maya Ghose and Sebby Kulwicki

† CRUCIFER: Finnegan Miller

† MUSIC: The Exultate Choir, Jamie Blair, *co-director*; G. Dene Barnard, *guest organist*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and celebration of the tenth anniversary of Donna Vogt's Valentine's Day baptism, given by her parents Denise and Nate Vogt.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:
 Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street
 Elaine Warren – Ninth Street
 Mr. Williams – Christian Education wing

OFFICERS BEING COMMISSIONED TODAY

OFFICERS

MODERATOR	LYNN WALLICH
MODERATOR ELECT	ALEC DEITZ
TREASURER	DENNIS SECOR
ASSISTANT TREASURER	MATT MYERS
SECRETARY	JIM GRIFFIN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	PETER MURRAY
SENIOR DEACON	JAMES VELO
TRUSTEE CHAIR	CHRIS FARQUHAR

COMMISSIONERS

ADMINISTRATION	ANDY BENSING
ADMINISTRATION ELECT	BRAD WEST
CHURCH GROWTH/VITALITY	CHERYL HOSKINSON & FRAN PANEK
CHURCH GROWTH ELECT	ELISHA HARDEKOPF
CHURCH VITALITY ELECT	LEE KIESEL
EDUCATION	STACIE SHOLL
EDUCATION ELECT	MARGARET GRAHAM
HOUSE & GROUNDS	VICTOR JOHN
HOUSE & GROUNDS ELECT	ERIC KLINTWORTH
JUSTICE & MERCY	KAYE MARTIN
JUSTICE & MERCY ELECT	NICOLE MUSCOTT
NOMINATING CHAIR	JOE BASZYNSKI
MUSIC, ARTS & HERITAGE	DAVID MAILER
MUSIC, ARTS & HERITAGE ELECT	SCOTT JONES

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

YOUTH AT-LARGE	MIA PROVENZANO
MEMBER AT-LARGE	MELISSA PRENDERGAST

DEACONS

DEACON (5), 3-YEAR TERM	SCOTT GRAHAM
	GREG HALBE
	ANTOINETTE KOOLEMANS-BEYEN
	JAMES LOWE
	MARTY WORTH

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES	
(2), 4-YEAR TERM	SUE COOK
	JIM KYLE
(1), 3-YEAR TERM	ELAINE WARREN

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



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