



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 17, 2019

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 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 If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee, BWV 647 J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP Alec Deitz

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

* Then all stand.

L: Sovereign of all the earth, Creator of the universe, Holy Triune God, From everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord. Your law brings life, O Lord, and we meditate on it day and night;

P: Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

L: You are a rich stream of living waters, and we would immerse ourselves in you;

P: Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

L: You bring forth fruit in due season and establish the work of our hands;

P: Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

L: Who is like our God, the One whose ways are full of life?

P: Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 386 O For A World Azmon

* INVOCATION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

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 Lord, 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 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 Jeremiah 17:5–10 (O.T. p. 719) Mr. Deitz

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM How Can I Keep From Singing? Robert Lowry

1. My life flows on in endless song;
 above earth's lamentation,
 I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
 that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
 while to that Rock I'm clinging.
 Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
 how can I keep from singing?*

2. Through all the tumult and the strife,
 I hear that music ringing.

It sounds and echoes in my soul.

How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

3. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
 a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his!

How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

—Robert Lowry

THE EPISTLE I Corinthians 15:12–20 (N.T. p. 176) Mr. Deitz

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 360 Hope of the World *Donne Secours*

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 Luke 6:17–26 (N.T. p. 64) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "On the Level" The Rev. David Long-Higgins

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

Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated checks go to **B.R.E.A.D.** BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 22-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 A Bird, A Lovely Butterfly Wilbur Held

A bird, a lovely butterfly, a fleecy cloud up in the sky, A mighty mountain, wide and high, all speak of Thee, O God.

A daisy, rose or daffodil, the green grass growing on the hill, The woodlands, friendly, deep and still, all speak of Thee, O God.

For gentle rain, the quiet snow, for sun and moon and starlight glow, For all the beauty that we know, our thanks to Thee, O God.

—Florence Pedigo Jansson

* PRESENTATION HYMN 591 *Old Hundredth*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
 Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

* 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 282 If Thou But Trust in God *Wer nur den lieben Gott*

Please be seated for the Commissioning.

COMMISSIONING OF 2019 OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Ahrens

* BENEDECTION

Rev. Long-Higgins

POSTLUDE

Wer nur den lieben Gott, BWV 642

Bach

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.

† WE WELCOME THE REV. DAVID LONG-HIGGINS to worship this morning. Rev. Long-Higgins is Transitional Conference Minister with the Ohio United Church of Christ.

† ACOLYTES: Matty Provenzano and Ethan Murray

† CRUCIFER: Mia Provenzano

† MUSIC: The Jubilate Choir, Sandra Mathias, *director*; Marti Rideout, *pianist*; The Exultate Choir, Kevin Jones, *organist and director*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in celebration of First Church youth by Laurie Maynell.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Long-Higgins and Rev. Ahrens
Ninth Street – Rev. Corzine
Education Wing – Mr. Williams

OFFICERS BEING COMMISSIONED TODAY

OFFICERS

MODERATOR	LYNN WALLICH
MODERATOR ELECT	ALEC DEITZ
TREASURER	MATT MYERS
ASSISTANT TREASURER	JIM FEWLASS
SECRETARY	JIM GRIFFIN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	NICOLE MOSS

COMMISSIONERS

ADMINISTRATION	GREG KELLISON
ADMINISTRATION ELECT	ANDY BENSING
CHURCH GROWTH/VITALITY	MARIA BROWN & LISA FRAVEL DEAN
CHURCH GROWTH/VITALITY ELECT	CHERYL HOSKINSON & FRAN PANEK
EDUCATION	JENNIFER PROVENZANO
EDUCATION ELECT	STACIE SHOLL
HOUSE & GROUNDS	MARK BROWN
HOUSE & GROUNDS ELECT	VICTOR JOHN
JUSTICE & MERCY	NICOLE MOSS
JUSTICE & MERCY ELECT	KAYE MARTIN
MUSIC, ARTS & HERITAGE	DREW WADE
MUSIC, ARTS & HERITAGE ELECT	DAVID MAILER

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

YOUTH AT-LARGE	ALEX PALMER
MEMBER AT-LARGE	PAVAN PETER
NOMINATING CHAIR	JOE BASZYNSKI
DEACON (6), 3-YEAR TERM	SARAH GIFFEN LANIER HOLT (2-YEAR TERM) CAROL ERNST-KING MARC SCHOLL ANDY SMITH-VERHAGE AL WADDELL
TRUSTEE (2), 4-YEAR TERM	ALLEN BAKER KEVIN CUBICK

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.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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