



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 18, 2018

The First Sunday in Lent

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)*

CHORAL PRELUDE How can I keep from singing? arr. Gwyneth Walker
 My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.

I hear the real though distant song that hails a new creation. Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing. It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it's living!

What though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it's giving! No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging. Since I believe that love abides, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble when they hear the bells of freedom ringing. When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing? In prison cell, in dungeon dark, our thoughts to them are winging. When friends hold courage in their heart, how can I keep from singing?

—Robert W. Lowry

He'll Make a Way

Byron J. Smith

Illuminati, Ken Harned, *director*

ENTER TO WORSHIP The Rev. Lauren Emery

Leader: Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth. Let us worship God.

* *Then all stand.*

L: Welcome this day to the beginning of a journey.

P: Where will this journey take us?

L: It will take you to the Cross of Christ and beyond.

P: How much time do we have to get ready?

L: The time is now at hand for this journey.

P: Help us to be ready for this, O Lord. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 77 Forty days and forty nights

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, whose Beloved One was led out by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us, who are assaulted by many temptations, and as you know the weakness of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: We are called to examine our faithfulness to God's covenant with us. God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weakness and shame. Let us confess our sin to almighty God.

All: Eternal God, whose Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, we recognize and confess that we have failed to respond faithfully to your gracious presence in our lives. Through Jesus Christ you have offered us new life, fulfillment, and the freedom to serve you. We confess that we are captive to sin, that our sin binds us with false pride, and that the wrong we do is made worse by the good we leave undone. Reconcile us to you and to all people. God of mercy, forgive all our sin and strengthen us anew for life as you intend it; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silence may be observed for reflection and prayer.

* KYRIE ELEISON, HYMN 574

arr. David Johnson

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Ahrens

L: Almighty God, who is great in mercy and promises forgiveness of sin to all who truly repent and are sincere in faith, have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us from all sin, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life.

P: Amen. Thanks be to God.

* WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

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.

ANTHEM At the sign of the rainbow (100% Chance of Rain)

Walter Horsley

It rained for forty days, it did, it also rained at night; And when the rain slowed down and stopped, the sun came into sight. And God gave us his promise, a promise he would keep; It would never rain again that much, it would never get that deep. God will never flood the world again, and all that he makes grow. And we shall always know this, at the sign of his rainbow.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Genesis 9:8–17 (O.T., p. 7)

Rev. Emery

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Jesus walked this lonesome valley

Spiritual, arr. Peter Niedmann

Jesus walked this lonesome valley; he had to walk it by himself.

O, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley; the way is dark, we cannot see.

But, we will not fear this lonesome valley; he walked it once for you and me.

THE EPISTLE

1 Peter 3:18–22 (N.T., p. 234)

Rev. Emery

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 71

Lord, when you came to Jordan

Genevan 130

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 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 1:9–15 (N.T., p. 34)

Rev. Ahrens

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Temptation: Being Unforgiving"

Rev. Ahrens

(Part two of the eight-part Lenten sermon series, *Forgiveness*)

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

Pavan Peter

Cash and designated checks go to **Deep Griha**. Deep Griha, meaning "Light House," is an independent charitable organization that has been working to better the lives of people living in the slums in Pune, India. Since work began in 1975, Deep Griha has helped thousands of people through a range of education, self-help, nutrition and health programs. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM *Cantique de Jean Racine* Gabriel Fauré

Word, equal to the Most High, our only hope,
Eternal day of the earth and the heavens,
We break the silence of the peaceful night.
Divine Savior, cast your eyes upon us!

Spread upon us the fire of your powerful grace,
That all hell might flee at the sound of your voice;
Dispel the languishing soul's torpor
Which has caused it to forget your laws!

Oh Christ, show favor to this faithful people
Now gathered to bless you.
Receive the songs they offer to your immortal glory,
And may it return filled with your gifts!

* PRESENTATION HYMN Now to Christ who loved us *Lauda anima*

**Now to Christ who loved us, gave us
Every pledge that love could give,
Freely shed his blood to save us,
Gave his life that we might live,
Be the kingdom, Power and glory
And thanksgiving evermore.**

* 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 275 God of our life *Sandon*

* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE *Chorale dorien* Jehan Alain

It is our custom to be seated for the Postlude

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 nametag. We'd be delighted to assist you. Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.

ACOLYTES: Caroline Thompson and Jack Patterson

CRUCIFER: Peter Spofforth

MUSIC: Illuminati, Ken Harned, *director*; Casey Cook, *pianist*; The Jubilate Choir, Marti Rideout, *guest director*; Brianna Burkett, *flutist*; The Exultate Choir, Kevin Jones, *director and organist*

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bill Johannes by his family.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens
Ninth Street – Rev. Corzine
Education Wing – Mark S. Williams

WE OFFER A SPECIAL WELCOME to *Illuminati* this morning. Referring to the Latin phrase meaning “the Enlightened Ones,” *Illuminati* was created to respond to the community’s expressed desire for musical performances of a sacred or spiritual nature. Its mission, as an ensemble within the Columbus Gay Men’s Chorus, is to increase outreach performances, particularly to religious organizations, while respecting our members’ diverse spiritual beliefs. *Illuminati* sings monthly at various religious institutions and events around central Ohio and is proud to be a bridge between the LGBT and religious communities. Conducted by Dr. Ken Harned and accompanied by Casey Cook, *Illuminati* shares the music of various sacred cultures to demonstrate that we all have a place within God’s family.

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)



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