



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 25, 2018

The Second 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)*

PRELUDE *Adagio* (Six Pieces) Frank Bridge

ENTER TO WORSHIP G. Dene Barnard

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

* *Then all stand.*

L: The pathway is just beginning.

P: We have encountered the wilderness.

L: Now we are moving rapidly toward Jerusalem.

P: Along the way we will witness astonishing acts of mercy and justice.

L: Lord, be with us on the journey.

P: Guide our lives and our steps, we pray. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 488 The God of Abraham praise *Leoni*

* INVOCATION The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

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 brokenness. 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. Corzine

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. Corzine

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 Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 (O.T., p. 13)

Mr. Barnard

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

P: Thanks be to God.

MOTET O Lord, increase our faith Henry Loosemore

O Lord, increase our faith, strengthen us and confirm us in thy true faith; endure us with wisdom, charity, and patience, in all our adversities sweet Jesus, say Amen.

THE EPISTLE Romans 4:13–25 (N.T., p. 155) Mr. Barnard

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 344 Christ of the upward way *Sursum corda*

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 sermon. 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 8:31–38 (N.T., p. 44) Rev. Corzine

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "What Do You Get In Return?" Rev. Corzine

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

A time of reflection follows.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Ahrens

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 Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated checks go to **Faith in Public Life Ohio**. Faith in Public Life is a strategy center for the interfaith community, and has played an important role in changing the narrative about the role of faith in policy discourse, winning major progressive policy victories, and empowering new religious leaders to fight for social justice and the common good. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM *Kyrie eleison (Messe Solennelle)* Louis Vierne

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

* 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. 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 393 Take up your cross, the Savior said

Bourbon

* BENECTION

Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE

Carillon de Soissons, Op. 12

Maurice Duruflé

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: Maggie Myers and Ben Mailer

CRUCIFER: Eddie Anderson IV

MUSIC: The First Church Choir, Kevin Jones, *director and organist*

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of the Rev. Roger Miller by his family.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Corzine

Ninth Street – Rev. Ahrens

Education Wing – Mr. Williams

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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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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885
PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741
WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG