



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

February 23, 2020 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany/Transfiguration

**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 *Pièce d'Orgue, BWV 572* J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP G. Dene Barnard

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

*\* Then all stand.*

L: As God called to Moses from the mountain,

**P: we are called to be God's people.**

L: As Jesus called the disciples to climb with him to the peak of another mountain,

**P: we are called to follow wherever he leads.**

L: As the disciples stood in awe at the sound of God's voice,

**P: we are called to worship in wonder and praise.**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding  
*Hyfrydol*

**1. We have come at Christ's own bidding  
 to this high and holy place,  
 Where we wait with hope and longing  
 for some token of God's grace.  
 Here we pray for new assurance  
 that our faith is not in vain,  
 Searching like those first disciples  
 for a sign both clear and plain.**

**2. Light breaks through our clouds and shadows,  
 splendor bathes the flesh—joined Word,  
 Moses and Elijah marvel  
 as the heavenly voice is heard.  
 Eyes and hearts behold with wonder  
 how the Law and Prophets meet:  
 Christ with garments drenched in brightness,  
 stands transfigured and complete.**

**3. Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,  
 fearful lest our faith decline,  
 We, like Peter, find it tempting  
 to remain and build a shrine.  
 But true worship gives us courage  
 to proclaim what we profess,  
 That our daily lives may prove us  
 people of the God we bless.  
 —Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988**

\* INVOCATION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses  
 your well-beloved Child, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white  
 and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the  
 disquietude of this world, may be faith behold the Christ in beauty;  
 who with you, O Creator, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns,  
 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 Exodus 24:12–18 (O.T. p. 70) Mr. Barnard

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Let Thy Holy Presence Pavel Tschesnokoff  
 Let thy holy presence come upon us, we pray, Alleluia.

THE EPISTLE 2 Peter 1:16–21 (N.T. p. 236) Mr. Barnard

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN 75 O Wondrous Type, O Vision Fair *Deo Gracias*  
*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 17:1–9 (N.T. p. 18) Rev. Ahrens  
 L: May Light break forth on God's Holy Word.  
**P: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Be Dazzled" Rev. Ahrens  
*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. Corzine  
 Cash and designated checks go to **Deep Griha Scholarships**. 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.

ANTHEM Pilgrims' Hymn Stephen Paulus

Even before we call on Your name To ask You, O God,  
 When we seek for the words to glorify You, You hear our prayer;  
 Unceasing love, O unceasing love,  
 Surpassing all we know.

Glory to the Father,  
 And to the Son,  
 And to the Holy Spirit.

Even with darkness sealing us in,  
 We breathe Your name,  
 And through all the days that follow so fast,  
 We trust in You;  
 Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace,  
 Beyond all mortal dream.

Both now and for ever,  
 And unto ages and ages. Amen.  
 —Michael Dennis Browne

\* 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. 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 455 All Creatures of Our God and King  
*Lasst uns erfreuen*

\* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE *Epiphany* Gaston Litaize

*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 Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.*

† ACOLYTES: Ruby Holt and Naomi Holt

† CRUCIFER: Matty Provenzano

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

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and xxxxxxxx.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Rev. Corzine – Ninth Street

Mr. Williams – Christian Education wing

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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