



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

March 1, 2020

The First Sunday in Lent

**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 *Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit, BWV 669* J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP James Velo

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

\* *Then all stand.*

L: Happy are the people whose sins are forgiven!

**P: God's forgiveness is poured on them as a healing balm.**

L: Happy are the people who place their trust in God.

**P: God's presence is their guide and their strength.**

L: Come, let us worship the God who forgives and heals us.

**P: Let us celebrate God's presence with us each day. Amen.**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days  
*St. Flavian*

\* 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 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 Kevin R. Hackett

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.**

*Please find the attendance pad in the Welcome Notebook at the end of each pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor.*

\* WELCOME AND 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME Mark S. Williams, Mariner Taft and Taco,  
 Janet Newcity and Horizon

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7 (O.T. p. 2) Dr. Velo

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE Romans 5:12–19 (N.T. p. 156) Dr. Velo

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN 288 I Sing the Mighty Power of God *Ellacombe*  
*Children, Kindergarten through 2nd grade, are invited to 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 every Sunday morning during Worship Services 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 Matthew 4:1–11 (N.T. p. 3) Rev. Ahrens

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION Rev. Ahrens

"What is the Bible and How Do We Read It?"

(Second in the nine-part series *Christianity 101: Essential Questions of Christian Faith: A Lenten/Easter Journey*)

*A time of reflection follows.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Corzine  
*(Today, the Lord's Prayer will be prayed as part of the Communion liturgy.)*

THE OFFERTORY

*Want to give online? Please see the Depart to Serve leaflet for more information and a QR link.*

MISSION INVITATION Kaye Martin

Cash and designated checks go to **UCC Disaster Ministries–Puerto Rico Earthquake Recovery**. The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries has partnered with the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR) to assist with continued recovery response following the late December 2019 earthquake and aftershocks. This offering will go directly to support food, shelter, and hygiene kits. The Disaster Ministries had issued an emergency appeal to congregations to continue to assist the people of the island with the goal of \$250,000. This is our church's ongoing effort to support the mission of the larger church. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM *Kyrie eleison (Mass in B Minor, BWV 232)* Bach

*Kyrie eleison.*

Lord, have mercy on us.

\* PRESENTATION HYMN 591 Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow  
*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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. (Wheat-free rice flour bread is available on the trays, cut into circles.) Cups with the purple ribbon around them are filled with wine.

\* INVITATION

\* SURSUM CORDA

Plainsong

\* COMMUNION PRAYER

\* SANCTUS

Healey Willan

The congregation may be seated.

L: ... Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**P: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.**

(The Communion Prayer continues)

L: ... Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

**P: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.**

L: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

**P: 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.**

L: ... Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**P: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

MOTET *Miserere mei, Deus* William Byrd

*Miserere mei, Deus: secundum magnam misericordiam tuam. Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum: dele iniquitatem meam.*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy great mercy. And according to the multitude of thy commiserations, take away mine iniquity. — Psalm 51:1–2

*Please remain seated for the Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Notices.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Corzine

L: Let us pray.

**All: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mark S. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* CLOSING HYMN 77 Forty Days and Forty Nights *Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

*Kyrie, Gott heilger Geist, BWV 671*

Bach

*Please be seated for the postlude.*

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*Thank you for attending worship today. 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.*

† CRUCIFER: Erin Murray

† ACOLYTES: Maya Haslett and Grace Glaros

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

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in thanks to the many volunteers who support the missions, ministries and daily operation of First Church by the Flower Fund.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Rev. Corzine – Ninth Street

Mr. Williams – Education Wing

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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