



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 3, 2019

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 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 Prelude on the Name of ALAIN Maurice Durufé

ENTER TO WORSHIP Todd Jacobson

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

* *Then all stand.*

L: It is easy to stand here in the valley of our comfort.

P: We know what to expect and what is expected of us.

L: But Christ calls us to the mountain top to receive a new vision.

P: We are not sure we are ready for that.

L: Place your hope and trust in Christ, for He is your guide.

P: Let us open our hearts to Christ, ready for the vision he places before us. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 75 O Wondrous Sight Deo Gracias

* 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 Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold 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 34:29–35 (O.T. p. 81) Mr. Jacobson

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2 (N.T. p. 180) Mr. Jacobson

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 73 Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory Geneva
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 meditation. 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 9:28–36 (N.T. p. 69) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION "Reconciling Light Shining" Rev. Ahrens

A time of reflection follows.

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

THE OFFERTORY

MISSION INVITATION Sue Helmreich

Cash and designated checks go to **The SOAP Project**. S.O.A.P. ("Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution") started in 2010 as a simple concept. "Adolescents who are sex trafficked wash up, so let's provide them a bar of soap in hotel and motel bathrooms that are imprinted with the hotline number to help them escape." Now in 17 states and 30 cities, the SOAP Project also works with hotels to identify the signs of sex trafficking. Your donations will go to purchase these soaps and help the organization continue its outreach efforts, that have been proven successful. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM Eternal Light Leo Sowerby

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts,
 Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,
 Eternal Power, be our support,
 Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,
 Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
 —Alcuin of York (c. 735–804)

* 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.**

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 William Mathias

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ANTHEM Open Thou Mine Eyes John Rutter

Open Thou mine eyes that I may see,
 Incline my heart and I shall desire,
 Order my steps and I shall walk
 In the way of thy commandments.

O Lord God, be thou to me a God,
 And beside thee let there be none else,
 No other, nought else with thee.

Vouchsafe to me to worship thee and serve thee
 According to thy commandments,
 In truth of spirit,
 In reverence of body,
 In blessing of lips,
 In private and in public.
 —Lancelot Andrewes (1555–1626)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us pray.
All: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES – DEPART TO SERVE Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN Alleluia, Song of Gladness *Lauda anima*

1. Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can-not die;
 2. Al - le - lu - ia thou re - sound - est, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
 3. Al - le - lu - ia though we cher - ish and wouldchant for ev - er - more
 4. There-fore in our hymns we pray thee, grant us, bless-ed Trin - i - ty,

al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er raised by choirs on high;
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful mo - ther, all thy chil - dren sing with thee;
 al - le - lu - ia in our sing - ing, let us for a while give o'er,
 at the last to keep thine Eas - ter with thy faith - ful saints on high;

in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 but by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
 as our Sa - vior in his fast - ing plea - sures of the world for - bore.
 there to thee for ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE Litanies Jehan Alain

When the Christian soul in distress can no longer find new words to implore the mercy of God, it repeats the same invocation without ceasing with vehement faith. Reason reaches its limit. Faith alone continues its ascension.

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.

- † ACOLYTES: Erin Dean and Sebyy Kulwicki
- † CRUCIFER: Finnegan Miller
- † MUSIC: The First Church Choir; Kevin Jones, *organist and director*
- † THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of brother Kelly Warrick by Scott and Lisa Warrick.
- † GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:
 Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens
 Ninth Street – Rev. Corzine
 Education Wing – Mr. Williams

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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx

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.

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 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.



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