



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

March 4, 2018

The Third 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 green nametags 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 Sarabande in modo elegiaco Herbert Howells

ENTER TO WORSHIP Janet Newcity

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

\* *Then all stand.*

L: We stand in the need of the presence of God.

**P: Our lives can so easily become corrupted by our own greed.**

L: But the Lord has heard our cries and calls us forward on this journey.

**P: Lord, guide our steps.**

L: Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

**P: Let us open our hearts to the healing, restoring love of God. Amen.**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 339 Be thou my vision *Slane*

\* INVOCATION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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, HYMN 574 arr. David Johnson

\* 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.**

\* 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Exodus 20:1–17 (O.T., p. 66) Ms. Newcity

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 (N.T., p. 166) Ms. Newcity

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN There's a wideness in God's mercy *St. Helena*  
*(Please see panel 5 for the hymn)*

*During the hymn, Children, Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, are invited to the Worship Connections in the Children's Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.ing.*

THE GOSPEL John 2:13–22 (N.T., p. 93) Rev. Ahrens

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION Rev. Ahrens

“Tearing Down: An Inventory for Forgiving Hearts”

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

*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 Anne Hudson

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 Jesu, the very thought of thee Paul Halley

*The text to this anthem can be found in the hymnal, #310*

\* 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.**

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 Sing me to heaven Daniel Gawthrop

In my heart's sequestered chambers lie truths stripped of poets' gloss.  
Words alone are vain and vacant, and my heart is mute.  
In response to aching silence, memory summons half-heard voices.  
And my soul finds primal eloquence, and wraps me in song.  
If you would comfort me, sing me a lullaby.  
If you would win my heart, sing me a love song.  
If you would mourn me and bring me to God, sing me a requiem, sing me to Heaven.  
Touch in me all love and passion, pain and pleasure.  
Touch in me grief and comfort, love and passion, pain and pleasure.  
Sing me a lullaby, a love song, a requiem.  
Love me, comfort me, bring me to God.  
Sing me a love song, sing me to Heaven  
—Jane Griner

*Please remain seated for the Prayer of Thanksgiving*

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 386 O for a world Azmon

\* BENECTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE *Jesus Christus, unser Heiland, BWV 666* J.S. Bach  
*Please 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: Grace Glaros and Lincoln Glaros

CRUCIFER: Peter Spofforth

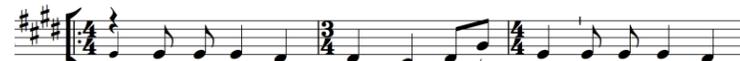
MUSIC: The First Church Choir, Kevin Jones, *director and organist*

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in honor of their 15th wedding anniversary by Ellen and Pete Boriin.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens  
Ninth Street – Rev. Corzine  
Education Wing – Mr. Williams

\* GOSPEL HYMN There's a wideness in God's mercy St. Helena



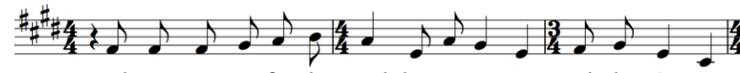
1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness  
2. There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than  
3. For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure



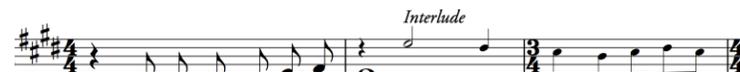
of the sea; there's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, which is more than  
up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly  
of the mind; and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der



lib - er - ty. There is wel - come for the sin - ner,  
judg - ment given. There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion  
ful - ly kind. If our love were but more faith - ful,



and more gra - ces for the good; there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior;  
in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for all the mem - bers  
we should take him at his word; and our life would be thanks - giv - ing



there is heal - ing in his blood.  
in the sor - rows of the Head.  
for the good - ness of the Lord.



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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