



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

March 8, 2020

The Second 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 Restore, Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness  
 arr. Michael Mazzatenta

ENTER TO WORSHIP Elisha Hardekopf

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

\* *Then all stand.*

L: Come, all who need help!

**P: Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.**

L: Come, all who desire blessing!

**P: Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.**

L: Come, all who long for salvation!

**P: Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 488 The God of Abraham Praise Leoni

\* INVOCATION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

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. 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

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

\* 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 Rev. 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.*

THE REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

*Today we welcome into membership:*

*Gary Seigerst and Jeremy Howard, Carolyn Patterson, and Jilda Swift.*

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT (*Congregation & New Members*)

**The church is a community of faith called to witness and to serve. 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.**

\* WELCOME (*Congregation*)

**We welcome you with joy to the life and ministry of The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Columbus, Ohio. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be faithful witnesses to the ways of Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

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 Genesis 12:1–4a (O.T. p. 10) Mrs. Hardekopf

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM I Will Lift Mine Eyes Jake Runestad

I will lift mine eyes to the hills. From whence comes my help?

My help comes from the LORD. He is the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved. He who keeps you will not slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is thy keeper; the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not harm you by day nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil. He will keep your soul.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this day forth for evermore.

—Psalm 121

THE EPISTLE Romans 4:1–5, 13–17 (N.T. p. 154) Mrs. Hardekopf

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN 282 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

*Wer nur den lieben Gott*

*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 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 John 3:1-17 (N.T. p. 93) Rev. Ahrens  
L: The Word of God for the people of God.  
**P: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Rev. Ahrens  
"What Do Christians Believe: About the Trinity?"  
(Third in the nine-part series *Christianity 101: Essential Questions of Christian Faith: A Lenten/Easter Journey*)

THE 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.**

THE OFFERTORY

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

MISSION INVITATION Tom Brownfield

Cash and designated checks go to **Back Bay Mission**. Back Bay Mission was founded in 1922 as an outreach effort of the First Evangelical Church (later U.C.C.) of Biloxi, Mississippi, whose members responded with compassion and service to the needs of the poor living in deplorable conditions along the Back Bay of Biloxi. Since then, Back Bay Mission has continually grown its services and ministries, always keeping the impoverished and marginalized at the center of its concern. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM God So Loved the World Bob Chilcott

Emily Noël, *soloist*

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

—John 3:16

\* 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.**

\* 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 408 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life  
*Germany*

\* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten*, BWV 647 J.S. Bach

*Please be seated for the postlude*

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*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 to greet and welcome those received into membership today.*

† CRUCIFER: Miriam Myers

† ACOLYTES: Erin Dean and Maggie Myers

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

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in celebration of all who share the Word and message of worship today by Cynthia Krause.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY

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

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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



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](http://WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG)