



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 10, 2019

The First Sunday in Lent

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 What Wondrous Love Is This? arr. Douglas Wagner

ENTER TO WORSHIP Chris Gelpi

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

* *Then all stand.*

L: When Jesus was in the wilderness, he was tempted to save himself.

P: We often look for the good things for ourselves first, before the well-being of others.

L: Jesus was offered salvation if he turned stones to bread; if he accepted wealth and power; if he tested God's commitment to him.

P: In all these things, Jesus remained strong in his commitment to God.

L: May our commitment be as strong.

P: May our lives be placed in God's caring hands throughout our journey. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 87 The Glory of These Forty Days

Erhalt uns, Herr

* 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.

* KYRIE ELEISON, HYMN 572 John Merbecke

Silence may be observed for reflection and prayer.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sin, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

P: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* 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.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 26:1–11 (O.T. p. 180) Dr. Gelpi

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM A Legend (The Crown of Roses) Peter Tchaikovsky

When Jesus Christ was yet a child
 He had a garden small and wild,
 Wherein He cherished roses fair,
 And wove them into garlands there.

Do you bind roses in your hair?
 They cried, in scorn, to Jesus there,
 The Boy said humbly: "Take, I pray,
 All but the naked thorns away."

Now once, as summer time drew nigh,
 There came a troop of children by,
 And seeing roses on the tree,
 With shouts they plucked them merrily.

Then of the thorns they made a crown,
 And with rough fingers pressed it down,
 Till on His forehead fair and young,
 Red drops of blood like roses sprung.

THE EPISTLE Romans 10:8b–13 (N.T. p.160) Dr. Gelpi

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 384 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go St. Margaret

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 Luke 4:1–13 (N.T. p. 61) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Lesson Two: Pray Steadfastly in the Face of Temptation" Rev. Ahrens

(Second in the nine-part series: *Life Lessons from Luke*)

A time of reflection follows.

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.

Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

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 *Kyrie eleison (Requiem)* Maurice Duruflé

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. 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.

* 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 389

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Nyland

(Bread Justice Network Team members please come to the Chancel steps on the last verse of the hymn.)

COMMISSIONING OF BREAD JUSTICE NETWORK

Rev. Ahrens

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Chorale phrygien

Jehan Alain

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: Carmen Axt and Maggie Myers

† CRUCIFER: Samantha Myers

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

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of parents Ruth L. and Frank P. Lister by Cynthia Krause.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens

Ninth Street – Rev. Corzine

Education Wing – Mr. Williams

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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