



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 11, 2018

The Fourth 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 white roses 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 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded arr. Arnold Sherman

ENTER TO WORSHIP Nancy Loy

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

* *Then all stand.*

L: God loves us with a steadfast love.

P: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

L: God loves us so much he gave us his Son.

P: Let us believe and have eternal life!

L: God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.

P: Let us have faith to receive this grace!

L: Give thanks to the Lord,

P: for God is good.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 376 Love divine, all loves excelling *Hyfrydol*

* INVOCATION The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Gracious God, whose blessed One, Jesus Christ, came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that Christ may live in us and we in Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

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 Rev. Corzine

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 & INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMAND FINNEGAN MILLER Rev. Ahrens

THE REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Today we welcome into membership: Lanier and Rachael Frush Holt (daughters, Naomi and Ruby), and Jim Truax.

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT (*unison*)

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 (*unison*)

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 Mr. Miller

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 Numbers 21:4–9 (O.T., p. 139) Dr. Loy

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM God so loved the world Lloyd Pfautsch

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

—John 3:16

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 2:1–10 (N.T., p. 192) Dr. Loy

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 357 O Master, let me walk with Thee *Maryton*

During the hymn, children, Kindergarten through second grade, are invited to the 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 John 3:14–21 (N.T., p. 94) Rev. Corzine

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Thanks For Saying Something" Rev. Corzine

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

A time of reflection follows.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Ahrens

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

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

MISSION INVITATION James Westfall
Cash and designated checks go to **Kaleidoscope Youth Center** that works with young people in Central Ohio to create safe and empowering environments for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth through advocacy, education and support. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM Love divine, all loves excelling Ned Rorem
The text to this anthem can be found in the hymnal, #376

* 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.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Rev. Ahrens
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 291 O God of earth and altar *Llangloffan*

* BENEDICTION Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE *Choral* Joseph Jongen
It is our custom to 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: Sebby Kulwicki and AnnaSofia Severson

CRUCIFER: Adam Wade

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 memory of her sister Diana Moser by Kathryn Bamberger. THE RED ROSE is in celebration of the birth of son Jude to Beth and Carl Gelfius.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:
Broad Street – Rev. Corzine
Ninth Street – Rev. Ahrens
Education Wing – Mr. Williams

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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