



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 15, 2020

The Third 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 O Lamb of God, Unspotted, BWV 656 J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP Peter Murray

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

* *Then all stand.*

L: Come, let us sing to the Lord!

P: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

L: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving!

P: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

L: Come, let us worship and celebrate God's loving presence with us.

P: We sing to God with our hearts and our spirits. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 214 O Come and Sing Unto the Lord *Irish*

* INVOCATION The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

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. 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 Kevin R. Hackett

* 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 AND INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMAND ETHAN MURRAY

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.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Ethan Murray

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 17:1-7 (O.T. p. 64) Peter Murray

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM What Wondrous Love Is This? arr. Marie Pooler

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be,

And through eternity I'll sing on.

THE EPISTLE Romans 5:1-11 (N.T. p. 155) Peter Murray

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 494 Out of Deep, Unordered Water *Rustington*

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 4:5-42 (N.T. p. 94) Peter Murray and Rev. Corzine

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Go Ahead and Boast" Rev. Corzine

(Fourth in the nine-part series *Christianity 101: Essential Questions of Christian Faith: A Lenten/Easter Journey*)

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.

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**. Kaleidoscope operates a drop-in center in Columbus that provides services and support for LGBT+ youth. The center works to provide a safer place, programming, and leadership opportunities so that youth can be free to explore who they are and empowered to become their confident, truest selves. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

arr. Peter Niedemann

Jesus walked this lonesome valley; he had to walk it by himself. O, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley; the way is dark, we cannot see. But, we will not fear this lonesome valley; he walked it once for you and me.

* 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. 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 281 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

* COMMISSIONING OF THE BREAD JUSTICE MINISTRY NETWORK

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE

Fantasia in C Minor, BWV 537

Bach

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 Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.

† CRUCIFER: Will Haslett

† ACOLYTES: Mala Ghose and Maya Haslett

† MUSIC: The Exultate Choir, Jamie Blair and Kevin Jones, *co-directors*; Kevin Jones, *organist*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the 101st birthday of Patricia C. Lightbody, mother of Mary Lightbody, and in honor of Patricia's longevity.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY

Rev. Corzine – Broad Street

Rev. Ahrens – Ninth Street

Mr. Williams – Education Wing

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

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