



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 17, 2019

The Second 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 Variations on “Wondrous Love” Samuel Barber

ENTER TO WORSHIP Mia Provenzano

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

* *Then all stand.*

L: Wait for the Lord; be strong!

P: The promises of God will never be broken.

L: With God as our light, what is there to fear?

P: The promises of God will never be broken.

L: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

P: The promises of God will never be broken.

* 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.

* 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 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 Sharon and Glenn Bardus, Francine and Alan Files (children Ebenezer, Moses, and Malachi), Chris and Valerie Haslett (children Will, Jake, and Maya), and Gail and Jim Lowe (in absentia).

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT (*unison*)

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 (*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 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 15:1–12, 17–18 (O.T. p. 12)

Ms. Provenzano

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley arr. Peter Niedmann

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.

THE EPISTLE Philippians 3:17—4:1 (N.T. p. 198) Ms. Provenzano

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 396 O For a Closer Walk With God *Caithness*

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 13:31–35 (N.T. p. 77) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Ahrens

“Lesson Three: Challenge the Powers That Be with the Powers of God”
 (Third 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

Bruce Panek

Cash and designated checks go to **Faith Mission Meal Team**. Each month a team of First Congregational Church volunteers prepares a meal and serves it at Faith Mission. Your donations ensure that the team has the resources to provide a nourishing meal to those whom Faith Mission serves. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

A Lenten Prayer

Robert J. Powell

Lord, I ask a blessing For my soul today; Give me peace from heaven As I kneel and pray. Forty days did Jesus Face temptation strong; Give me strength to conquer Knowing right from wrong.	Lord, I ask a blessing For my soul today; Give me peace from heaven As I kneel and pray. I would be like Jesus turning from all sin, With His love to keep me True and faithful within.	Lord, I ask a blessing For my soul today; Give me peace from heaven As I kneel and pray. When I look to Jesus, He will show the way; Help me come to meet Him Pure on Easter Day. —Billie Echols
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* 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 All My Hope On God is Founded (*see next panel*)

Michael

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Fugue on the Name of ALAIN

Maurice Duruflé

Please be seated for the Postlude.



1. All my hope on God is found - ed;
2. Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry,
3. God's great good - ness e'er - en - dur - eth,
4. Dai - ly doth th'al - might - y Giv - er
5. Still from earth to God e - ter - nal



he doth still my trust re - new,
sword and crown be - tray our trust;
deep his wis - dom pass - ing thought:
boun - teous gifts on us be - stow;
sac - ri - fice of praise be done,



me through change and chance he guid - eth, on - ly good and on - ly true.
though with care and toil we build them, tower and tem - ple fall to dust.
splen - dor, light, and life at - tend him, beau - ty spring - eth out of nought.
his de - sire our soul de - light - eth, pleas - ure leads us where we go.
high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing for the gift of Christ, his son.



God un - known, he a - lone calls my heart to be his own.
But God's power, hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.
Ev - er - more from his store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
Love doth stand at his hand; joy doth wait on his com - mand.
Christ doth call one and all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

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 to welcome our newest members.

† ACOLYTES: Matty Provenzano and Jack Patterson

† CRUCIFER: Alex Palmer

† MUSIC: The Jubilate Choir, Sandra Mathias, *director*; The Exultate Choir; Kevin Jones, *organist and director*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the 100th birthday of Patricia C. Lightbody, mother of Mary Lightbody, and in honor of Patricia's longevity.

† 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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