



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 24, 2019

The Third 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 Concertino Giuseppe Tartini
 i. Grave
 ii. Allegro molto

CHORAL INTROIT *O grosse Lieb* (O Great Love) J.S. Bach
*O grosse Lieb, o Lieb ohm alle Masse,
 Die dich gebracht auf diese Marterstrasse!
 Ich lebte mit der Welt in Lust und Freuden,
 Und du musst leiden.*
 O great love, O love beyond all measure,
 that brought You to this path of martyrdom!
 I lived with the world in delight and joy,
 and You had to suffer.
 —Johann Heerman, 1630

ENTER TO WORSHIP G. Dene Barnard
 Leader: Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth. Let us worship God.
 * *Then all stand.*
 L: Lord, you are our God.
P: We will praise you with joyful lips.
 L: Lord, you are our God.
P: Our souls thirst for you.
 L: Lord, you are our God.
P: We behold your power and majesty.
 L: Lord, you are our God.
P: We will bless you all of the days of our lives.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 507 I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord
Land of Rest

* 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.

* 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 INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMAND, JACK TRACE Rev. Ahrens

* PASSING OF THE PEACE Mr. Trace
 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 to your neighbor.

CHILDREN'S TIME Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 55:1-9 (O.T. p. 685) Mr. Barnard
 L: The Word of God for the people of God.
P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE I Corinthians 10:1-13 (N.T. p. 172) Mr. Barnard
 L: The Word of God for the people of God.
P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN There's a Wideness in God's Mercy St. Helena
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.

Interlude

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness
 2. There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than
 3. For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure

of the sea; there's a kind - ness in his jus - tice, which is more than
 up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly
 of the mind; and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der

lib - er - ty. There is wel - come for the sin - ner,
 judg - ment given. There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion
 ful - ly - kind. If our love were but more faith - ful,

and more gra - ces for the good; there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior;
 in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for all the mem - bers
 we should take him at his word; and our life would be thanks - giv - ing

Interlude

there is heal - ing in his blood.
 in the sor - rows of the Head.
 for the good - ness of the Lord.

THE GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9 (N.T. p. 76) Rev. Corzine
 L: The Word of God for the people of God.
P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Lesson Four: Bear the Fruit of Repentance” Rev. Corzine
(Fourth in the nine-part series: *Life Lessons from Luke*)

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

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Youth Mission Trip**. From June 3 to 8, First Church Youth will serve the inner city homeless of New York City. Working in conjunction with Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP), a Quaker organization identified and recommended by the U.C.C., participants will learn about the lives of those most neglected by our society and the issues facing our community today. Each day, teams travel on foot or by public transportation to work with service agencies across the city who serve the needs of low income, homeless, and hungry communities. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM The Lord is My Light and My Salvation John Rutter

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid: and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him. One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require: even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle: yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling and oblation with great gladness: I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord. Hearken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee: have mercy upon me, and hear me. My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face: Thy face, Lord, will I seek. O hide not thou thy face from me, nor cast thy servant away in displeasure. Thou has been my succour: leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord taketh me up. Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord.
—from Psalm 27

* 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 Mr. Trace

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 339 Be Thou My Vision *Slane*

* BENEDICTION Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE Fugue in A Minor, BWV 543 Bach

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: Ruby Holt and Naomi Holt

† CRUCIFER: Erin Murray

† MUSIC: Thomas Reed, *clarinetist*; The First Church Choir, Kevin Jones, *organist and director*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the music and ministry of First Church and in celebration of Amy Wagner's birthday by Bev and Bert Cook.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

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

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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.

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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