



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 25, 2018

Palm/Passion Sunday

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)*

*This morning we gather outside, weather permitting, at the Broad Street entrance for the Liturgy of the Palms.*

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

MOTET *Hosanna filio David* Tomàs Luis de Victoria  
 Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Blessed be the King of Israel. Peace in heav'n, and glory in the highest places. Hosanna in the highest heav'ns.  
 —Matthew 21:9

THE GOSPEL Matthew 21:1–11 The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine  
 Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

ENTER TO WORSHIP The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: On this day Jesus entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as “King of Kings” by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life.

L: Hosanna to the Son of David!

**P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**All: Hosanna in the highest!**

*The congregation is invited to enter the Sanctuary, lifting and waving palm branches until the Invocation. The procession follows during the singing of the hymn. Please remain standing, as you are able.*

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 88 All Glory, Laud, and Honor  
*Valet will ich dir geben*

\* INVOCATION Rev. Corzine

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for humanity you sent Jesus, to take our nature upon him and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us an example of great humility: Mercifully grant that we too may walk in the way of the cross and share in the resurrection; through the one who is our Savior and Redeemer and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

\* WELCOME & 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 at the end of the pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor.*

CHILDREN'S TIME Mark S. Williams

*After children's time, the children will return to sit with their families. 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 EPISTLE Philippians 2:5–11 (N.T., p. 197) Rev. Corzine

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Ride On! Ride on in majesty Grayston Ives

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
 Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry,  
 thy humble beast pursues his road  
 with palms and scattered garments  
 strowed.

to see the approaching sacrifice.  
 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
 Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
 the Father on his sapphire throne  
 awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
 In lowly pomp ride on to die,  
 O Christ thy triumph now begin  
 o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
 In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
 bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
 then take, O God, thy power and reign.  
 —Henry Milman (1791–1868)

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
 The winged squadrons of the sky  
 look down with sad and wond'ring eyes

MEDITATION “The Beginning of Forgiveness: Reconciled and Restored” Rev. Ahrens

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

*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

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

MISSION INVITATION Marty Worth

Cash and designated checks go to **The Good Samaritan Fund:** The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to the door of First Church in need. The next Good Sam Day is Monday, April 9. Thank you for your generosity.

HYMN 99 Throned up on the awful tree Arfon  
*Please remain seated during the hymn.*

*During the singing of the hymn, the Processional Cross is taken out and a wooden cross is brought in and placed at the Communion table.*

SILENCE

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO MARK

*All sit through the Passion until the verse that mentions “Golgotha, which means place of a skull.” The congregation speaks the parts printed in bold type.*

Mark 14:43–65

. . . Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, **“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’”** . . .

. . . All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, **“Prophecy!”** The guards also took him over and beat him.

Mark 14:66—15:15

. . . But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” They shouted back, **“Crucify him!”** Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, **“Crucify him!”** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Mark 15:16–32

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, **“Hail, King of the Jews!”** *(The Passion continues on the next panel)*

. . . It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Mark 15:33-47

. . . "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." . . .

. . . He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.

*After the Passion is concluded, all sit. Silence is kept.*

<p>ANTHEM</p> <p>Drop, drop, slow tears</p> <p>Drop, drop, slow tears, And bathe those beautiful feet Which brought from Heaven The news and Prince of Peace.</p> <p>Cease not, wet eyes, His mercy to entreat; To cry for vengeance Sin doth never cease.</p>	<p>Kenneth Leighton</p> <p>In your deep floods Drown all my faults and fears; Nor let His eye See sin, but through my tears. —Phineas Fletcher</p>
--	--

*Please stand as you are able.*

\* CLOSING PRAYER Rev. Ahrens  
 Leader: Let us pray. Everliving God, in your tender love for us, you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death on the cross, giving us the example of great humility:  
**All: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\* CLOSING HYMN 98 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded *Passion Chorale*  
*The organ becomes quieter with each verse and leaves us singing unaccompanied by the end of the hymn.*

*There is no Postlude on this Holy Day.  
Please depart in silence.*

*You are invited to add your palms to the Cross of palms on the Chancel steps.*

*You are invited to walk the Labyrinth in Room B after the service.  
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: Samantha Myers and Maggie Myers

CRUCIFER: Peter Spofforth

MUSIC: 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, Jan Parsons, by Dana Navin Schultz.

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

PASSION READERS: *Narrator* – Nancy Livingston; *Judas* – Geoff Smith  
*Verhage*; *Jesus* – Lanier Holt; *High Priest* – Dene Barnard; *Servant Girl* – Ruby Holt; *Peter* – Gary West; *Pilate* – Bill Wells; *Centurion* – Mae Hubbard;  
*Voice* – Hannah Brooks

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ALL HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29  
 6 p.m. Dinner and Holy Communion – Parish Hall  
 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service – Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30  
 7:30 p.m. The Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday  
 featuring Victoria's "St. John Passion"

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1  
 7 a.m. Sunrise Service – Broad Street entrance steps  
 8:45 & 11 a.m. Easter Services – Sanctuary  
 10 a.m. Congregational Brunch – Parish Hall

Bulletins are printed on recycled paper with a minimum 50% post-consumer content. All music in the bulletin is reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717661. All rights reserved. Bulletins and audio podcasts of services are available on the website for each week: [www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx](http://www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx)

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)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885  
 PHONE: 614.228.1741  
 WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG