



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 29, 2020

The Fifth 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.*

*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

WELCOME The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP Mark S. Williams

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

** Then all stand.*

L: Our lives feel all disjointed as though they were a valley of dry bones.

P: But the Spirit of God will bring connection and continuity to our lives.

L: The Spirit of God breathes hope into each one of us.

P: The Spirit of God challenges us to be people of faith.

L: Open our hearts, Lord, and bring us to your light.

P: Open our lives, Lord, and break us free from doubt and fear. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN 85 What Wondrous Love Is This? *Wondrous Love*

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What won-drous love is this, O my
 2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, To God and to the Lamb, I will
 3. 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

soul! _____ What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss To
 sing; _____ To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, While
 on; _____ And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, And

bear the heav - y cross for my soul, for my soul, To bear the heav - y cross for my soul!
 mil-lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing!
 through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. 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.

Silence may be observed for reflection and prayer.

* KYRIE ELEISON

Kevin R. Hackett

The image shows a musical score for the Kyrie Eleison. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The vocal line is written in a soprano or alto clef, and the piano accompaniment is in a bass clef. The music is simple and hymn-like, with a focus on the text.

* 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 MADALYN DEAN

Rev. Ahrens

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mark S. Williams

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.” So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,” says the LORD.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am

glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Still We Rise”

Rev. Ahrens

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.

THE OFFERTORY

Want to give online? Please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated checks go to the **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Franklin County**. NAMI of Franklin County is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with mental illness and their families through support, education, and advocacy. Thank you for your generosity.

INSTRUMENTAL

Out of the Depths, I Cry to You, O Lord (Psalm 130), BWV 687

J.S. Bach

* 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 76

My Song is Love Unknown

Love Unknown



1. My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to me,
2. Christ came from heav - en's throne Sal - va - tion to be - stow,
3. Some - times they strew His way, And His sweet prais - es sing,
4. They rise, and needs will have My dear Lord made a - way;
5. Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di - vine:



Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly be.
But peo - ple scorned and none The longed - for Christ would know.
Re - sound - ing all the way Ho - san - nas to their King.
A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of life they slay.
Nev - er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like Thine.



O who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?
But O my Friend, My Friend in - deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
Yet stead-fast He To suf - fering goes, That He His foes From thence might free.
This is my Friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could glad - ly spend.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Choral dorian

Jehan Alain

Enter to Worship ...

March 29, 2020

Depart to Serve

Christianity 101: A Lenten / Easter Journey

Sermon Titles

Ash Wednesday, February 26 – services – Noon and 7:30 p.m.

Sermon Title: “In the Beginning: Becoming Christian”

Lent I – March 1 – services – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Communion Meditation Title: “What is the Bible and How Do We Read It?”

Lent II – March 8 – services – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Sermon Title: “What do Christians Believe about the Trinity?”

Lent III – March 15 – 11 a.m.
Sermon Title: “A New Way of Being Church”

Lent IV – March 22 – 11 a.m.
Sermon Title: “Is Christianity a Religion of Love?”

Lent V – March 29 – 11 a.m.
Sermon Title: “Still We Rise”

Palm Sunday – April 5 – 11 a.m.
Sermon Title: “As Closely As You Can”

Wednesday in Holy Week – April 8 – 7:30 p.m.
A Service of Tenebrae

Maundy Thursday – April 9 – 7:30 p.m.
Virtual Home Communion

Good Friday – April 10 – 7:30 p.m.
Victoria’s *St. John Passion*

Easter Sunday – April 12 – 11 a.m.
Sermon Title: “Jesus Christ’s Resurrection and Eternal Life”

Services are streamed live on the First Church Facebook page and are available as podcasts from www.first-church.org

We’re Online ...

As we adapt ourselves to this new social distancing lifestyle you will notice upcoming meetings and gatherings being conducted through a program called Zoom.

If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, it is a communications program allowing for video and audio conferencing. It provides services allowing for online meetings, chats and other mobile collaboration. It’s web-based with an app for phones.

Several meetings and other church groups have had Zoom meetings, and other groups using Zoom will send out invites. Staff will do their best to help answer questions on this new method of coming together.

“Christianity 101” Online Class ...

Rev. Nancy Livingston will teach online each Friday afternoon on the curriculum “Christianity 101.” The sessions are at 1 p.m. The intent is these will run each Friday through May 1.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/967443994?pwd=K3pvTEpTL2YycGVoVGpmWVBBVmFHdz09>

Meeting ID: 967 443 994

Password: 167654

Spring Flower Sale

Youth groups are taking orders for their spring flower sale now through **April 6**. There are many varieties of flowers and hanging baskets to choose from, and several varieties of vegetables. The order form can be viewed online from the church website. Please mail your order, along with payment, to the office. Plants will be available for pick up May 9-10.

This Week at First Church

Sunday, March 29

11 a.m. — Worship Streaming (Virtual)

6:30 p.m. — Youth Groups (Virtual)

Monday, March 30

Noon — Grief Support Group (Virtual)

Tuesday, March 31

7 p.m. — Justice and Mercy meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, April 1

6 p.m. — Christian Education meeting (Virtual)

Friday, April 3

1 p.m. — Christianity 101, with Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston (Zoom)

Keep in Prayer

Our senior minister, Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens as he faces two surgeries in the coming weeks and months; Joan Lebold; Dr. Karl Danneberger, Sallie, Marc and Kyle Danneberger; Paul Flocken; Brooke Chute, cousin of Amy Wagner; Emma, great niece of Shelly Gies; Christine Nichols, friend of Victor John; Richard Brant; Mike Bittle, brother-in-law of Melva Fisher; John Bigelow, brother-in-law of Virginia O'Neill; Nolan and Sissy Anderson, friends of Melva Fisher; Ann Richards, mother of Jonathan Miller; Paul Zimmerman, father of Doug Zimmerman; Taco, service dog for Mariner Taft; Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz; Amy Smith, sister of Sarah Lange; Arlene Reynolds; and those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Dayna McCrary, on the death of her sister, Gina; Andrea Gonzales, on the death of her brother-in-law, Silverio Gonzalez; Melanie Brown, on the death of her sister of Kathy Erskine; and all those affected by illness, especially the Coronavirus, locally, nationally and globally.

Congratulations on the birth of Graves Smith Wills, grandson of Jeff and Rev. Emily Corzine, born March 19th.

Sanctuary Flower Dedications ...

Sanctuary Flowers will now be distributed to members of our congregation as a bouquet. If you would like to deliver flowers or know of an individual who should receive flowers please contact Amy Wagner at awagner@first-church.org.

Church Leadership

Church Staff

Senior Minister **Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, M.Div., D.Min.**

Associate Minister **Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div.**

Minister of Music **Kevin Jones, M.M., M.S.E.**

Christian Education Director **Mark S. Williams, M.Ed.**

Office Administrator **Amy Wagner**

Office Assistant **Pat Patterson**

Building and Grounds Superintendent **Mark Dahnke**

Building and Grounds Assistant **Darrell Cross**

Wedding Coordinators **Amy Wagner, Janet Newcity,**

Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Katie Wagner

Nursery Staff **Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor**

Diaconate

Senior Deacon **James Velo**

Deacons **Carol Ernst-King, Shelly Gies, Sarah Giffen,**

Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Lanier Holt, Antoinette

Koolemans-Beynen, James Lowe, Dayna McCrary,

Allison Lowery Palmer, Mark Sholl, Andrew Smith-

Verhage, Al Waddell, Marty Worth

Board of Trustees

Chairperson **Chris Farquhar**

Trustees **Allen Baker, Brian Cave, Sue Cook, Cindy**

Conn, Kevin Cubick, Tom Hadley, Jim Kyle, Elaine

Warren

Church Council Leadership

Moderator **Lynn Wallich**

Treasurer **Dennis Secor**

Secretary **Jim Griffin**

Give ...

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to “Enter to worship, depart to serve.” You can give now by scanning the QR Code or by sending your check to the church (First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215).



Today our offerings go to **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Franklin County**. NAMI of Franklin County is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with mental illness and their families through support, education, and advocacy. Thank you for your generosity.

The mission and ministry of First Church can be supported by using either EasyTithe, PayPal, the QR code above, or sending your offering directly to the church. You can also make payments through your bank's bill pay option. For more information, please contact Pam Mantor at pmantor@first-church.org or Rev. Emily Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org.

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx



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