



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

March 31, 2019

The Fourth 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 *O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig*, BWV 656 J.S. Bach  
(O Lamb of God, Innocent)

ENTER TO WORSHIP Lyle Barkhymer

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

\* *Then all stand.*

L: How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

**P: For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.**

L: God makes us new in God's Spirit!

**P: Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.**

L: Come, let us worship and be thankful.

**P: Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God. Amen.**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 85 What Wondrous Love Is This *Wondrous Love*

\* INVOCATION The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: Gracious God, whose blessed One, Jesus Christ, came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that Christ may live in us and we in Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, 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 AND INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMAND, WILL HASLETT Rev. Ahrens

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE Mr. Haslett

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 on to your neighbor.*

CHILDREN'S TIME Rev. Ahrens

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Joshua 5:9–12 (O.T. p. 197) Mr. Barkhymer

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

MOTET Call to Remembrance Richard Farrant

Call to remembrance, O Lord, Thy tender mercies:  
and Thy loving kindness, which hath been ever of old,

O remember not the sins and offences of my youth:

but according to Thy mercy think Thou on me, O Lord, for Thy goodness.

—Psalm 25:5–6

THE EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 5:16–21 (N.T. p. 181) Mr. Barkhymer

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN 356 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing *Nettleton*

*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 15:1–3, 11b–32 (N.T. p. 78) Rev. Ahrens

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Lesson Five: Let Love and Grace Guide Your Life" Rev. Ahrens  
(Fifth in the nine-part series: *Life Lessons from Luke*)

*A time of reflection follows.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Livingston

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 Karen Hewitt

Cash and designated checks go to **Kaleidoscope Youth Center**, that works with young people in Central Ohio to create safe and empowering environments for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth through advocacy, education, and support. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM None Other Lamb Jane Marshall

None other Lamb, none other Name, None other hope in Heav'n or earth or sea, None other hiding place from guilt and shame, None beside Thee! My faith burns low, my hope burns low; Only my heart's desire cries out in me By the deep thunder of its want and woe, Cries out to Thee.	Lord, Thou art Life, though I be dead; Love's fire Thou art, however cold I be: Nor Heav'n have I, nor place to lay my head, Nor home, but Thee. —Christina Rossetti
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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 Mr. Haslett

*Please be seated for the Notices.*  
COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE  
L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.  
**P: Thanks be to God.**

Rev. Ahrens

\* CLOSING HYMN 376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Hyfrydol*

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE Fugue on the Theme of the Carillon at Soissons Cathedral  
Maurice Duruflé

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

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*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: Maya Haslett and Erin Dean

† CRUCIFER: Peter Spofforth

† MUSIC: SallyJane Mathias, *cellist*; The First Church Choir, Kevin Jones, *organist and director*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of daughter Catherine Ann Secor by Dennis Secor.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens

Ninth Street – Dr. Lynn Wallich

Education Wing – Rev. Livingston

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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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