



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

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

Fantasia on "All Glory, Laud, and Honor," BWV 735

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

\* ENTER TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

L: Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

L: We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ, who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Let these branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we who carry them may follow him in the way of the cross, that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**P: Amen.**

\* THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1–11

Rev. Corzine

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King!

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring. *Fine*

1. Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2. The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went;
3. To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;
4. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Repeat Refrain*

Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One.  
 Our praise and prayers and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.  
 To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King!

\* INVOCATION

Rev. Ahrens

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 AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Corzine

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

**P: And also with you.**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 50.*

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

*A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 2.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

L: Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” In the name of Jesus, we pray:

**P: Lord, help us to take up our cross and follow you.**

L: You stood before Pilate, your life condemned, your word rejected, your innocence ignored:

**P: Keep us from rejecting your word of truth and salvation.**

L: You carried your cross on the wounded stripes of your back, for love of us and for all the world.

**P: Help us to bear our cross, for love of you and for love of others.**

L: The weight of your cross was the weight of our sins which make us stumble and fall.

**P: In our weakness, we turn to you for strength.**

L: Although you suffered, you still reached out to care for your mother.

**P: May our cross-bearing never keep us from caring for our families.**

L: As you struggled to bear your cross to Calvary, a passerby was drafted to help you.

**P: Make us as willing as Simon to bear the burdens of those in need.**

L: Others also took risks to comfort you.

**P: Strengthen our faith to take loving risks for our needy brothers and sisters.**

L: Sin weighed heavily upon you as you stumbled along the way.

**P: Forgive us, Lord, for the sin which makes us fall.**

L: Your suffering under the cross caused the women of Jerusalem to weep.

**P: Make our suffering in life a share in your suffering.**

L: The full burden of our sin crushed you mightily to the earth.

**P: Do not forsake us in our falling, but bring us to repentance and faith.**

L: Stripped and jeered, you endured humiliation without complaint.

**P: Humble us in our work and daily lives.**

L: Nailed to the cross, you took your place among the condemned.

**P: Take your place beside us sinners, and bring us through faith to the Paradise of God.**

L: When your sacrifice was complete, you handed your life to the Father, and he did not forsake you.

**P: Keep us close to your cross and death, now and at the hour of our death.**

L: Faithful friends and loving women took loving care of your lifeless body.

**P: Turn the darkness of death into the brightness of day for those we love.**

L: In the tomb you were laid, but from the tomb you arose.

**P: Be the Lord of the resurrection for us and for all the baptized.**

L: Loving Jesus, for the sake of your cross and passion, we are justified in faith, washed cleaned of our sins by baptism and repentance, and made one with God. We thank you for your cross and for the depths of your love for us. Help us to bear our cross in the world and follow you until you bring us into your heavenly kingdom; where you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**P: Amen.**

#### 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 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 Good Samaritan Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to the door of First Church in need. The Good Samaritan program will continue serving our neighbors in April and beyond, but will not host an on-site second Monday at this time. Your support for Good Samaritan fund will continue this outreach for those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

INSTRUMENTAL

My Heart is Full of Longing, BWV 727

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. Ahrens

*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 98

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Passion Chorale

1. O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down;  
 2. What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain:  
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est friend,

Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown;  
 Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.  
 For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, What bliss till now was Thine!  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;  
 O make me Thine for - ev - er; And should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.  
 Look on me with Thy fa - vor, Vouch - safe to me Thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er Out - live my love to Thee.

\* INVITATION TO HOLY WEEK

Rev. Ahrens

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE

All Glory, Laud, and Honor, BWV 736

Bach

*Enter to Worship*  
**Depart to Serve**



In preparation for online Holy Week services at First Church, here are few things you can gather from around your house to participate in each service. Take a picture and post it on our Facebook page and share how you are engaging in Holy Week.

**Palm Sunday April 5, 11:00 a.m.**

Make your own Palm frond. There is a palm included in the "Holy Week Tool Kit" that you can color print, color, and cut out.

**Tenebrae Service Wednesday April 8, 7:30 p.m.**

Bring a candle and light it for the service.

**Maundy Thursday April 9, 7:30 p.m.**

Bread and juice to set your own sacred table for communion  
Keep it simple: bread and juice/wine; something you have on hand.

**Good Friday April 10, 7:30 p.m.**

Display a cross or make one and have it near during the service.

**Easter Sunday April 12, 11:00 a.m.**

Draw or color a picture of a butterfly.

### Holy Week at Home

We have put together a "Holy Week at Home" tool kit that has activities and ideas to help celebrate Holy Week this year.

Download yours at: [www.files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/a3171010-ddf2-4fd1-8af2-771e7af642c2.pdf](http://www.files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/a3171010-ddf2-4fd1-8af2-771e7af642c2.pdf)

### This Week at First Church

Sunday, April 5

6:30 p.m. First Church Youth Gathering (Virtual)

Monday, April 6

3:00 p.m. Confirmands Gathering (Virtual)

Tuesday, April 7

8:00 p.m. Rev. Tim's Bible Study (Virtual)

Wednesday, April 8

7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Holy Week Tenebrae Service

Thursday, April 9

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 10, Good Friday

1:00 p.m. "Christianity 101"

with The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston via Zoom

7:30 p.m. The Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday

Sunday, April 12, Easter Sunday

11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Resurrection Celebration

### "Christianity 101" Online Class

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston will teach online each Friday afternoon on the curriculum "Christianity 101." The sessions will be at 1 p.m. with the first one starting on March 20. 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.

## Keep in Prayer

Joan Lebold; Dr. Karl Danneberger, Sallie, Marc and Kyle Danneberger; Paul Flocken; Wendy and Ryan Kirkland; 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 McCary and family, on the loss of her sister; Dene Barnard, on the loss of his brother; Rabbi Rick Keller, whose mother is in hospice; all medical professionals in our congregation who are on the front lines; and all those affected by illness, especially the Coronavirus, locally, nationally and globally.

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## 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).

This mission of the week is Good Samaritan: 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 13. Thank you for your generosity.

The mission and ministry of First Church can be supported by using either EasyTithe, PayPal, by visting <https://www.first-church.org/give.aspx>, or by 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](mailto:pmantor@first-church.org) or Rev. Emily Corzine at [ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org).

## Church Leadership

### Church Staff

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

Associate Minister **Rev. Emily 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**

## 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](http://www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx)



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