



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 29, 2018

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 and Ushers wearing red 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)*

A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

PRELUDE Celebrate with Ringing Michael Mazzatenta

OPENING SENTENCES The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine
 Leader: This is the day which God has made. Alleluia!
People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

**Indicates those who are able may stand.*

* PRECES Kevin Jones
Precentor O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
Precentor O God, make speed to save us.
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.
Precentor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Precentor Praise ye the Lord.
Choir The Lord's name be praised.

* OPENING SONG Come, let us sing to God on high Tallis Canon

1. Come, let us sing to God on high, The Rock of our sal - va - tion praise; Come
 2. For God is high a - bove all gods, The heights and depths are in God's hand; God
 3. Bow down and let us wor-ship God Who is our Ma - ker and our Lord; We

with thanks-giv - ing to God's courts And raise our joy - ful psalms in praise.
 made the sea and all there - in, God's hands have mol - ded the dry land.
 are God's peo - ple and God's sheep; To - day, then, hear - ken to God's Word.

Please be seated as the Choir sings the psalm appointed for this day.

PSALM 22:25–31 chant: Edward Hopkins

- 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.
- 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live for ever.
- 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 28 For the kingdom is the Lord's
and he rules over the nations.
- 29 How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
- 30 He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
- 31 They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMAND SAMANTHA MYERS

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Please stand.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE Ms. Myers

L: The peace of God 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

THE FIRST READING: Acts 8:26–40 (N.T., p. 127) Rev. Corzine

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* CANTICLE: A SONG OF CREATION *Whitehead*

During the hymn, Children, Kindergarten through Second grade, are invited to the 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.

1. Let all cre - a - tion_ bless the Lord, till heav'n with praise is ring - ing Sun,
 2. All liv - ing things up - on the earth, green fer - tile hills_ and moun-tains, sing_
 3. O men and wo - men. ev - ery-where, lift up a hymn of glo - ry; let

moon, and stars, peal_ out a_ chord, stir_ up the an - gels' sing - ing. Sing,
 to the God who gave_ you birth; be joy - ful, springs and foun-tains. Lithe
 all who know God's stead - fast care tell_ our sal - va - tion's sto - ry. No

wind_ and rain! Sing, snow and sleet! Make mu - sic, day, night, cold_ and heat: ex -
 wa - ter_ life, bright air - borne_ birds, wild rov - ing_ beasts, tame flocks and herds: ex -
 tongue be_ si - lent; sing_ your part, you hum - ble_ souls and meek of heart: ex -

-alt_ the God_ who_ made you.
 -alt_ the God_ who_ made you.
 -alt_ the God_ who_ made you.

THE SECOND READING: John 15:1–8 (N.T., p. 109)

Rev. Corzine

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

P: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: JUBILATE DEO (*sung by the choir*)

Benjamin Britten

O be joyful in the LORD, all ye lands:
 serve the LORD with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.
 Be ye sure that the LORD he is God:
 it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people,
 and the sheep of his pasture.
 O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:
 be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.
 For the LORD is gracious, his mercy is everlasting:
 and his truth endureth from generation to generation.
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.
 —Psalm 100

SERMON “Branching Out in Love”

Rev. Ahrens

A time of reflection follows.

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: That there may be purpose and fulfillment, O God, in all that we do,

P: sung, each time

Christ, have mer - cy.

L: That we may show others this day the love that you have taught us,

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: That the church throughout the world may respond to your call for peace and justice,

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: That those who are in need be helped and comforted,

P: Christ, have mercy.

(We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, the members, family, and friends who are listed in the Depart to Serve leaflet and whom we hold in our hearts in prayer. As directed, you are invited to pray silently or aloud for those needs and concerns you have.)

L: That we may be strengthened by your grace for the tasks of this day,

P: Christ, have mercy.

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, in Christ you have embraced all of life through the one who is the way, the truth, and the life. Pour out your grace upon us that we may love all of life as you have loved us. **Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

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

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **OCC Outdoor Ministries**. Outdoor Ministries (ODM) Campership Fund through the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ provides funding for children and youth to attend a summer camp at Templd Hills, near Bellville. While the cost of camps vary, the ODM Campership Fund helps cover the cost of students in the Ohio Conference up to 60% of the camp fee. These funds will assist campers from across the Ohio Conference attend even if they or their churches do not have the funds to attend. Help enrich the experience for a young camper this summer. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM O come let us sing unto the Lord Anthony Piccolo

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving: and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.
For the LORD is a great God: and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are all the corners of the earth: and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands prepared the dry land.
O come, let us worship and fall down: and kneel before the LORD our Maker.
For he is the LORD our God: and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.
—Psalm 95:1-7

* PRESENTATION HYMN Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
sung to *Lasst uns erfreuen*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

* 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 418 God, bless your church with strength!
Ich halte treulich still

* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE Toccata in B-flat Minor Louis Vierne
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 name tag. We'd be delighted to assist you. You are invited to Fellowship Hour in Parish Hall.

ACOLYTES: Ben Mailer and Samantha Myers

MUSIC: The First Church Ringers; The First Church Choir, Kevin Jones, organist & director

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of all the Shirleys in my life and in honor of Annie, Pasha, and Eddie by Lynn Wallich.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street Rev. Corzine – Ninth Street
Mr. Williams – Christian Education wing

ABOUT TODAY'S LITURGY

We celebrate Morning Prayer this morning because today is one of the rare fifth Sundays of the month, and to widen our experience of different liturgical forms. The liturgy of Morning Prayer is a form of daily worship adapted through the ages that has its earliest roots in our Jewish heritage. Its premise is one of praying to God at the beginning of the day, giving thanks for another day ahead. The service falls roughly into three main parts: Opening sentences and singing/reading of the Psalms; readings from Holy Scripture—usually one from the Hebrew texts, and one from the Gospels—interspersed with ancient songs of the church; and prayers. The liturgy presupposes full and hearty choral and congregational involvement in the spoken and sung responses, preparing us to be sent forth from this house of worship into the wider world to live out the Great Commission.

Some terminology in today's liturgy may be unfamiliar to some. The word "Preces" literally means "prayers." In liturgies of Morning Prayer, what some call "Matins," and Evening Prayer, what some call "Evensong," the Preces begin with words from Psalm 51, "O Lord, open our lips." This verse-and-response format is one of the oldest forms of Judeo-Christian worship.

Also, the word "Canticle" simply means "a song of the church" and is usually based in Holy Scripture. This morning, we sing "A Song of Creation" (a metrical version of Canticle 12), and "Jubilate Deo" (Psalm 100). Incidentally, the Opening Hymn is a metrical version of Psalm 95, which is always part of Morning Prayer. The choir also sings a version of this same canticle for the Offertory anthem.

Likewise, the act of singing the Psalms is a largely-forgotten tradition in Reform worship. The Book of Psalms was the first "hymnal." They were always intended to be sung. The musical tones in Jewish worship, however, have been lost over time. Our Roman, Lutheran, and Anglican sisters and brothers around the world continue the ancient tradition of sung Psalmody. It is interesting to note that the first printed hymnal in North America was indeed titled The Bay Psalm Book, and was a Psalter published in 1640.

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)



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