



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 3, 2020

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Meditation on "The Lord's My Shepherd"

Harold Darke

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Mark S. Williams

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

** Then all stand.*

L: Jesus the Good Shepherd calls our names to come and follow him.

P: His voice, speaking our names, draws us to him.

L: We follow without fear, for the shepherd cares for us.

P: Our hearts rejoice and we can place our trust in the Good Shepherd.

L: Come, let us enter the gate with thanksgiving!

P: Let us go forth confidently with songs of praise! Amen.



1. Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2. God rules in the heights, al - migh - ty to save;
 3. "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"
 4. Then let us a - dore and give him his right,

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful name;
 though hid from our sight, his pres - ence we have;
 let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son;
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might;

the name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol;
 the great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 the prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 all hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
 fall down on their fac - es and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMAND ANNASOFIA SEVERSON

Rev. Ahrens

* 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 a sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mr. Williams

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

2:42-47

Rev. Corzine

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2.

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:19-25

Rev. Corzine

A reading from the first book of Peter, chapter 2.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Lord is My Shepherd (Requiem)
(*pre-recorded*)
Stephen Secan, *oboe*

John Rutter

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
—Psalm 23

THE GOSPEL

John 10:1–10

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 10.

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“You Have A Beautiful Church”

Rev. Ahrens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Corzine

(Today, the Lord's Prayer will be prayed during Holy Communion.)

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 **BREAD**. BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 22-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. BREAD rises! Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

Greater Love Hath No Man

John Ireland

(pre-recorded)

Candice Kight and Christopher Humbert, *soloists*

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death.
Greater love hath no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,
That we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.
Ye are washed, ye are sanctified,
ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;
That ye should show forth the praises of him
who hath call'd you out of darkness into his marvellous light.
I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God,
that you present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy,
acceptable unto to God, which is your reasonable service.
—Canticle 8, John 15, 1 Peter 2, 1 Corinthians 6, Romans 12

* 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!**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.

* INVITATION

Rev. Corzine

L: Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets. We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name:

P: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

L: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things. In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

P: 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.

Eat this, for it is the body of Christ, broken for you.

Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us pray.

P: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

Mr. Williams

1. Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, Up - on a cross they bound you,
 2. O won - drous love, which found no room In life, where sin de - nied you,
 3. New ad - vent of the love of Christ, Shall we a - gain re - fuse you,
 4. O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build In us your new cre - a - tion;

And mocked your sav - ing king-ship then By thorns with which they crowned you;
 And, doomed to death, must bring to doom The power which cru - ci - fied you,
 Till in the night of hate and war We per - ish as we lose you?
 Our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled, We wait your rev - e - la - tion.

And still our wrongs may weave you now New thorns to pierce that
 Till not a stone was left on stone, And all a na - tion's
 From old un - faith our souls re - lease To seek the king - dom
 O Love that tri - umphs o - ver loss, We bring our hearts be -

stead - y brow, And robe of sor - row round you.
 pride, o'er - thrown, Went down to dust be - side you.
 of your peace, By which a - lone we choose you.
 fore your cross; Come, fin - ish Your sal - va - tion.

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

This Week at First Church

- 5/3
11 a.m. **Worship Virtual**
6:30 p.m. **Youth Gathering Virtual**
- 5/4
7 p.m. **Book Club Virtual**
- 5/5
7 p.m. **Justice & Mercy Virtual**
8 p.m. **Tim's Bible Study on Comfort Virtual**
- 5/6
10:30 a.m. **Book Study Virtual**
6 p.m. **Christian Education Virtual**
- 5/7
10:30 a.m. **Acts Comes Alive Bible Study Virtual**
- 5/9
8:30 a.m. **House & Grounds**
9 a.m. **Flower Pickup**

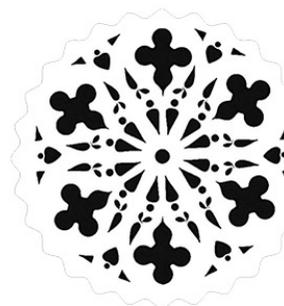
Today is Teacher Appreciation Sunday. We are so thankful for the ministry of our Faith Formation Teachers and Facilitators. They quietly come each Sunday and share the good news with our children, youth, and adults. Thanks be to God for their faith and dedication to this ministry.

It is also National Teacher Appreciation Week, and we give thanks for their work and commitment, especially during this pandemic. Give a virtual hug to all our teachers!

Keep in Prayer

Prayers of celebration and joy on the birth of Stella Rose Potts, daughter of Caitlin and Alexi Potts, and great-granddaughter Marilyn Potts.

Joan Lebold; Dr. Karl Danneberger, Sallie, Marc and Kyle Danneberger; Paul Flocken; Wendy and Ryan Kirkland; Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz; Amy Smith, sister of Sarah Lange; Arlene Reynolds; Joyce Marcum, sister of Betty Johnson Conn; Ron Hickman, grandfather of Nathan and Sarah Sadie; Kelly Harris, friend of Mark Williams; Ilene Beasley, friend of Steven Ferris; those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including; Amanda Butler and family, on the loss of cousin Rachi; Mariner Taft, on the loss of his service dog, Taco; Rabbi Rick Kellner, on the loss of his mother, Linda; 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.



Engage

First Church will provide lunches for 125 people at The Largest Table at St. John's UCC on Wednesday, May 13 at 11a.m.

6 volunteers are needed for each shift. Bring your own mask. Gloves provided.

The shifts are:

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: First Congregational Church-make sandwiches and pack lunches

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: meet at First Church to load lunches in cars and distribute meals at St. Johns.

In order to help us ensure proper social distancing practices, we ask that you sign-up before the event with Rev. Emily Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org or 614-580-2084.

The First Church Book Club will meet via Zoom on May 4 at 7 p.m. Andrew Welsh-Huggins will lead the discussion of Ann Patchett's *The Dutch House*. For more information email communications@first-church.org

Future selections are:

Olive, Again by Elizabeth Stroudt. (June)

There There by Tommy Orange (July)

Youth Flower order pick up is **Saturday, May 9**, from 9 a.m. til noon. Please drive to the back Education Wing Door. Please stay in your car. A youth will bring your order and place it in your car. **All must wear masks.**

There are extra flowers and plants available for sale during this time. Please contact Mark Williams, mwilliams@first-church if you want to purchase.

Acts Comes Alive!

Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Acts Comes Alive when we read, study and follow the way of **THE** First Church people. We invite you to explore 6 of the 12 keys for Reviving the Church in our times. We will meet in a ZOOM classroom each Thursday morning from 10:30-11:30 a.m. from April 30-June 4. It will be lively and interactive. We invite you to pause whatever work or teaching you are doing and join us.

Here is the line-up of weeks of study.

April 30 – The Gospel of the Holy Spirit
May 7 – Conversion: Turning from Darkness to Light
May 14 – Community: The Fellowship of Hope
May 21 – Spirituality: Prayer as Saving Grace
May 28 – Servant Leadership: Ten Qualities Needed to Serve Christ
June 4 – Mission Unleashed: Getting the Community of Faith Out into the World

You can download the study materials for the class at <https://www.first-church.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=63AYGY&dasi=4G3AI>

To Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82768596282?pwd=VTIE-aXZveUdDYnRmZkV6NGdLWHI4UT09>

Meeting ID: 827 6859 6282

Password: 832922

Rev. Tim's Online Bible Study on Comfort

You are invited to join Rev. Tim for an online Bible study. This is the last meeting of the six-week study on comfort. The meeting will be held on Zoom, Tuesday, May 5, at 8:00 p.m.

To Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/880103445?pwd=TkF3M0ZjU0t-JSzhwam54Q203NUx4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 880 103 445 Password: 210065

Give

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to “Enter to worship, depart to serve.” You can support the mission and ministry of First Church now by scanning the QR Code, using either EasyTithe or PayPal, by visiting www.first-church.org/give.aspx, or by sending your offering directly to First Congregational Church, 444 E Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please contact Pam Mantor at pmantor@first-church.org or Rev. Emily Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org.

This week cash and designated checks go to **BREAD**. BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 22-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. **BREAD rises!** Thank you for your generosity.



Upcoming Mission:

5/10 – Good Samaritan Fund

Recent Mission Totals:

4/5	Good Sam	\$7,250.50
4/12	OGHS	\$1,572.50
4/19	Charitable Pharm	\$701.50
4/26	Knight Perry	\$750.50

Thank you for your generosity!

Church Leadership

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.

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

Administrative Manager Amy Wagner

Office Assistant Pat Patterson

Communications Consultant Melissa Kulwicki

Financial Assistant Pam Mantor

Building and Grounds Superintendent Mark Dahnke

Building and Grounds Assistant Darrell Cross

Custodian Jimmy Sibrian

Wedding Coordinators Amy Wagner, Janet Newcity, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Katie Wagner

Nursery Staff Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor, Blessing Weekly, Miranda Gumbita

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

Church Council Leadership

Moderator Lynn Wallich; **Moderator-elect** Alec Deitz;

Treasurer Dennis Secor; **Treasurer-elect** Matt Myers;

Secretary Jim Griffin; **Secretary-elect** Peter Murray

Board of Trustees

Chairperson Chris Farquhar; **Trustees** Allen Baker, Brian Cave, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn, Kevin Cubick, Tom Hadley, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren

Commissioners

Administration Andy Bensing; **Administration-elect** Brad West; **Church Growth** Cheryl Hoskinson; **Church Growth-elect** Elisha Hardekopf; **Church Vitality** Fran Panek; **Church Vitality-elect** Lee Kiesel; **Education** Stacie Sholl; **Education-elect** Margaret Graham; **House & Grounds** Victor John; **House & Grounds-elect** Eric Klintworth; **Justice & Mercy** Kaye Martin; **Justice & Mercy-elect** Lauren Muscott; **Music, Arts & Heritage** David Mailer; **Music, Arts & Heritage-elect** Scott Jones; **Members-at-Large** Melissa Prendergast & Mia Provenzano; **Nominating Committee Chair** Joe Baszynski

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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