



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

May 6, 2018

The Sixth 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 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)*

PRELUDE Impromptu Louis Vierne

ENTER TO WORSHIP Janet Newcity

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

\* *Then all stand.*

L: Sing to the Lord a new song, a song of hope and rejoicing!

**P: Praise God for wonderful acts of mercy and kindness!**

L: God has remembered God's faithful ones.

**P: God has poured blessing upon blessing upon us!**

L: Praise the Lord, all the earth, shout your praise!

**P: Rejoice, for God is truly with us. Amen.**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 218 New songs of celebration render  
*Rendez à Dieu*

\* INVOCATION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

**P. And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

\* WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMAND NICK BORIIIN  
 The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

PASSING OF THE PEACE Mr. Boriin

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 at the end of the pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor.*

CHILDREN'S TIME Mark S. Williams

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES Acts 10:44–48 (N.T., p. 130) Ms. Newcity

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE 1 John 5:1–6 (N.T., p. 241) Ms. Newcity

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN 531 Not for tongues of heaven's angels *Bridegroom*  
*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 meditation. 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 John 15:9–17 (N.T., p. 109) Rev. Ahrens

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION "The Commandment of Love" Rev. Ahrens

*A time of reflection follows.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Corzine  
*(Today, the Lord's Prayer will be prayed as part of the Communion liturgy.)*

THE OFFERTORY

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

MISSION INVITATION Alec Deitz

Cash and designated checks go to **B.R.E.A.D.** We are all members of the BREAD organization - Building Responsibility Equality And Dignity. Your gifts are needed to help us build a strong justice ministry in Columbus. Thank you for your generosity.

MOTET If ye love me Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever, ev'n the spirit of truth.

—John 14:15–17

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

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
 Praise Christ, all people 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. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. (Wheat-free rice flour bread is available on the trays, cut into circles.) Cups with the purple ribbon around them are filled with wine.*

\* INVITATION

\* SURSUM CORDA Plainsong

\* COMMUNION PRAYER

\* SANCTUS Richard Proulx

*The congregation may be seated.*

L: ... Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**P: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.**

*(The Communion Prayer continues)*

L: ... Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

**P: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.**

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.**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

MOTET *Ave verum Corpus* William Byrd  
*Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine. Cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine, esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine. O dulcis, o pie, o Jesu, fili Mariae, miserere mei. Amen.*

Hail true body, born of the Virgin Mary, who truly suffered and sacrificed on the cross for humankind. Whose pierced side flowed with a stream of blood, is the foretaste of our testing unto death. O sweet, O gentle, O Jesu, son of Mary, have mercy on me. Amen.

*Please remain seated for the Prayer of Thanksgiving*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Rev. Corzine

L: Let us pray.  
**All: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* CLOSING HYMN 376 Love divine, all loves excelling *Hyfrydol*

\* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE on *Hyfrydol* Ralph Vaughan Williams

*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 nametag. We'd be delighted to assist you. Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.*

ACOLYTES: Finnegan Miller and Jack Patterson

CRUCIFER: Alex Palmer

MUSIC: The Exultate Choir; The First Church Chamber Choir, Kevin Jones, director and organist

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in appreciation for all Faith Formation Teachers and Leaders and in memory of his mother, Frankie Williams, by Mark Williams.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens  
Ninth Street – Rev. Corzine  
Education Wing – Mr. Williams



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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