



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 16, 2021

The Seventh Sunday of Easter/Sunday after Ascension

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 168 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.*

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. To this we add Holy Communion, bringing further meaning to the totality of the prayers we have already offered. The liturgy presupposes full and hearty 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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

** Please stand as you are able*

* THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

L: O God, open our lips.

P: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

L: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

* OPENING SONG - PSALM 95

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 mold - ed the dry land.
 are God's peo - ple and God's sheep; To - day, then, heark - en to God's Word.

* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 1 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

P: Their delight is in the law of the Holy One, and they meditate on that law day and night.

L: They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

P: It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

L: Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes nor the sinner in the council of the righteous;

P: For the Holy One knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mr. Williams

THE FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 1:15–17, 21–26

Ruby Frush Holt

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 1.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

P: Thanks be to God.



1 This joy-ful Eas-ter - tide, a - way with sin and sor - - row!
 2 My be-ing shall re - jice se - cure with - in God's keep - - ing,
 3 Death's wa-ters lost their chill when Je - sus crossed the ri - - ver.



My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has sprung to life this mor - - row.
 un - til the trum-pet voice shall wake us from our sleep - - ing.
 His love shall reach me still; his mer - cy is for - ev - - er.

Refrain



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three - day pris - on,



our faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - - - - en!

THE SECOND READING

John 17:6-19

Rev. Corzine

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 17.

Jesus said, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

1. Let all cre - a - tion bless the Lord, till heav'n with praise is ring - ing.
 2. All liv - ing things up - on the earth, green fer - tile hills and moun - tains,
 3. O all you peo - ple ev - ery - where, lift up a hymn of glo - ry;

Sun, 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.
 let all who know God's stead - fast care tell our sal - va - tion's sto - ry.

Sing, wind and rain! Sing, snow and sleet! Make mu - sic, day, night, cold and heat:
 Lithe wa - ter life, bright air - borne birds, wild rov - ing beasts, tame flocks and herds:
 No tongue be si - lent; sing your part, you hum - ble souls and meek of heart:

ex - alt the God who made you.
 ex - alt the God who made you.
 ex - alt the God who made you.

HOMILY

“The Super Eight”

Rev. Ahrens

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Quietly and Slowly

Be still, be still. Be still and know that I am God._____

repeat ad. lib.

Be still, be still. Be still and know that I am God._____

L: We give you thanks eternal God for the hope we have in Jesus Christ, who died but is risen. We give you thanks for his presence among us. Because he lives we look to you for eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present or yet to come can separate us from your great love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. This day we offer prayers on behalf of this church, the community and world.

(We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, the members, family and friends who are listed in the Depart to Serve 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: 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.**

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

Eternal God, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love. Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves in love and service to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Designated gifts today are divided between **Ronald McDonald House** at Nationwide Children's Hospital, giving love and care to parents from out of town who are in Columbus for their children at the hospital; **Franklinton Farms** community gardens at 867 W. Town St., Suite A, Columbus, Ohio, 43222 (franklintonfarms.org); and **The Trevor Project** that fights to defend LGBTQ youth (thetrevorproject.org). Thank you for your generosity.

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run,
 2. To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es throng to crown His head;
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on His love with sweet - est song,
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns; The pris - oners leap to lose their chains,
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe - cu - liar to our King;

His king - dom stretch from shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 His name, like sweet per - fume, shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 And in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
 The wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.
 An - gels des - cend with songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud A - men!

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Corzine

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Eat This Bread

Jacques Berthier

**Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Come to me and never be hungry.
 Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Trust in me and you will not thirst.**

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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 sing the closing hymn as we depart with a heart to serve.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

* CLOSING HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today

Easter Hymn

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
 Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
 Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
 Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

*Please join us on ZOOM for a virtual coffee hour immediately following
this service.*

[Click HERE to be taken to this meeting.](#)

ZOOM meeting ID: 865 2790 7526

Password: 601438

Being confirmed during the 11 a.m. service today are:

Confirmands

Lila Grace Bendick
Elias Emerson Ewing
Jacob Christopher Haslett
Maya Elizabeth Haslett
Ruby Frush Holt
Elijah Yarian Horne
Samuel John Horne
Abigail Carolyn Middendorf

Parents

Camille and Matthew Bendick
Christa and Eric Ewing
Valerie and Chris Haslett
Valerie and Chris Haslett
Rachael and Lanier Frush Holt
Lori and Ben Horne
Lori and Ben Horne
Jenny and Andy Middendorf

Mentors

Kristen Blanks
Joseph Baszynski
John Deliman
Jenny Provenzano
Tracy Ross
Bill Rhoads
Ryan Jones
Linda Slocum

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

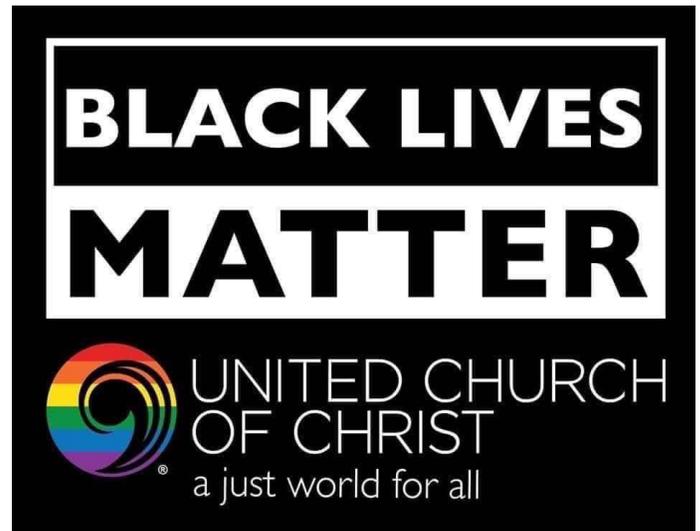
May 16, 2021

This Week at First Church

- 5/16**
9 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour
11 a.m. Worship
12 Noon Virtual Coffee Hour
 New Member-Deacon Gathering
- 5/17**
6 p.m. Budget and Finance Committee Mtg
7 p.m. New Members' Class
- 5/18**
7 p.m. Church Council Mtg
- 5/19**
10 a.m. The Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery
10:30 a.m. Book Study

Black Lives Matter Signs

First Church has new UCC Black Lives Matter yard signs for purchase of \$18 each. We only have a limited amount available at this time. Signs can be picked up in the church office. If you want a sign held for you, contact Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org



Calling All Graduates!

If you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this year, please send us information, including the individual's name, the school they are graduating from, and their degree and possible future plans. We will be recognizing our graduates in an upcoming Connections email. Send the information to awagner@first-church.org. You also may include a photo (electronic image only).

Coffee Hour

Immediately following each Worship Livestream, grab a cup of coffee and a cookie, and head to the Virtual Parish Hall for Zoom Coffee Hour!

Click the link below to join in.

9 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526?pwd=L014R-1dIdmE4UzlUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09>

Meeting ID: 865 2790 7526

Password: 601438

11 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88494216574?pwd=cDN-VS0dKaEdvTGhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 9421 6574

Password: 693317

Emergency Pastoral Care Line

If you need to be in touch with Rev. Ahrens or Rev. Corzine, for emergency pastoral care or name a prayer request, please call **614-733-4547** and leave a message. Someone will return your call as needed.

Should you need to reach either pastor directly for a time to chat, discuss pastoral concerns or have prayer, Rev. Tim can be reached by church voicemail at (614) 228-1741 ext. 13, or email at tahrens@first-church.org.

Rev. Emily has virtual office hours at 10 a.m. on Thursdays. These are 20 minute blocks beginning at 10 a.m. Contact Rev. Emily for a time slot at ecorzine@first-church.org.

Keep in Prayer

Members Penny Casey; Debbi Kelly and Larry Thorne; Trish Bishop; Michael Koscher; Dr. Dick Ward; Kathy Brownfield; Lindy Miller; the Curren-Smith family; Barbara Knox; Betsy Zahn; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; and Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz.

Family and friends Missy Obergefell's brother, Chris DiSantis; Robert Davis, Jr's brother, Michael and family member, Wendell Dear; Janice Taft's friend, Terry Williams; Pavan Peter's brother, Dr. Sanjeeth Peter; Margaret and Scott Graham's grandson, Miles; Melissa Kulwicki's mother, Judy Blandi; Nancy Burba's friend, John Cooper; Kosby Carrico's father, Ladd Winne; Susan Sitler and Rev. Tim Ahrens' friend, Destiny Stadie; Helen Spears and niece, Sandra Hall; Sarah Lange's sister, Rev. Amy Smith; and Bobby Brown, friend of the church.

Those who mourn loved ones Janice Taft on the death of her friend, Michael Haycock; Jeff Corzine on the death of his aunt, Lael Featherston; Dr. Kaye Martin on the death of her husband, the Honorable John Martin; Cathy and Wayne Redenbarger on the death of their son, Erin Ball; Gerry Worth on the death of his brother, Larry Worth.

Please note that individuals will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks, unless specified to clergy or staff.

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 presented below, 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 Annette McCormick at amccormick@first-church.org.



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Upcoming Mission Offerings

May 23 Strengthen the Church
May 30 Jessie’s World

Church Leadership

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D. Min, M.Div.
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
Business Administrator Annette McCormick
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 Al Waddell
Deacons Carol Ernst-King, Sarah Giffen, Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, Nancy Kreimer, James Lowe, Allison Lowery Palmer, Mark Sholl, Andrew Smith-VerHage, Hank Wilson, Martha Wilson, Donice Wooster, Marty Worth
Church Council Leadership
Moderator Alec Deitz
Moderator-elect Christine Farquhar
Treasurer Dennis Secor
Treasurer-elect Andy Bensing
Secretary Peter Murray
Secretary-elect Nicole Moss
Board of Trustees
Chairperson Brian Cave
Trustees Allen Baker, Alec Deitz, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Kevin Cubick (Secretary), Beth Iannarino, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren, Christopher Washington
Commissioners
Administration Brad West
Administration-elect Dayna McCrary
Church Growth Elisha Hardekopf
Church Growth-elect Geoff Smith-VerHage
Church Vitality Lee Kiesel
Church Vitality-elect Kosby Carrico
Education Margaret Graham
Education-elect Linda Slocum
House & Grounds Eric Klintworth
House & Grounds-elect Mark Brown
Justice & Mercy Lauren Muscott
Justice & Mercy-elect Kris Brant
Music, Arts & Heritage Scott Jones
Music, Arts & Heritage-elect Sandy Mathias
Members-at-Large Jonathan Miller and Finn Miller
Nominating Committee Chair Lynn Wallich

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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