



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 17, 2020

The Sixth 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 Prelude in G Major, BWV 541 J.S. Bach

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: Live in God's love!

P: Let that love be poured out for all God's people!

L: Bring hope and peace to all whom you meet.

P: We are called to be God's witnesses.

L: Celebrate and rejoice.

P: Praise be to God who has called, healed, and given us a ministry of peace. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

Song 13

1. Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, Dawn up - on this soul of mine;
 2. Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, Glow with - in this heart of mine;
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, power di - vine, Fill and nerve this will of mine;
 4. Ho - ly Spir - it, right di - vine, Make my con - science whol - ly Thine;

Word of God, and in - ward light, Wake my spir - it, clear my sight.
 Kin - dle ev - ery high de - sire; Per - ish self in Thy pure fire.
 By Thee may I strong - ly live, Brave - ly bear, and no - bly strive.
 Be my law, and I shall be Firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow in the way that leads to eternal life; through the One who is our Savior and Redeemer, and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND 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

17:22–31

Kevin Jones

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 17.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

1 Peter 3:13–22

Rev. Corzine

A reading from the first book of Peter, chapter 3.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

MOTET

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

(pre-recorded)

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

—John 14:15–17

THE GOSPEL

John 14:15–21

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 14.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Our Children Are Teaching Us About 'the Unknown God'"

Rev. Ahrens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Corzine

THE 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. Corzine

Cash and designated checks go to **Strengthen the Church**. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Thank you for your generosity.

MOTET

Non vos relinquam orphanos
(pre-recorded)

William Byrd

Alleluia. V. Non vos relinquam orphanos: vado, et venio ad vos, et gaudebit cor vestrum.

Alleluia. V. I will not leave you orphaned: I go, and will come again to you, and your heart shall rejoice.

—*Magnificat* antiphon for First Vespers at Pentecost. John 14:18 and 16:22b.

* 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 376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
2. Come, Al - migh - ty to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy life re - ceive;
3. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less let us be;



Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown!
Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave!
Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee;



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pass - ion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
Thee we would be al - way bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove;
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
Pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
Till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G Major, BWV 541

Bach

Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

This Week at First Church

All worship and meetings are virtual; please contact host for details.

- 5/17
11 a.m. Worship
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 5/18
Noon Grief Support Group
3 p.m. Confirmation Class
6 p.m. Budget and Finance Meeting
- 5/19
7 p.m. Church Council Meeting
- 5/20
10:30 a.m. Book Study
- 5/21
10:30 a.m. Acts Comes Alive Bible Study

Calling All Graduates!

If you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this year, send us some 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 before May 22. You also may include a photo (electronic image only).

Food Drive

The Youth of First Congregational Church will conduct a "Drive By Food Drive" on June 13th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the West Lot. The food drive will benefit the Gladden Community Food Pantry and the Broad Street Presbyterian Food Pantry. They are collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations. This is a great opportunity for scouting groups, community organizations, neighborhood organizations and companies to join forces to help those in need. More information will be coming soon.

HEARTLAND CONFERENCE OF CHRIST
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCING SUMMER 2020 CAMP 2.0
It's Virtual
It's Free
It's Full of the Stuff You Love

Introducing Summer 2020 Camp 2.0!

Many of your familiar counselors and directors will be leading worship, morning watch, vespers, hands on activities you can do at home, camp cabin/family group discussion, and/or more! ***ALL FOR FREE.***

These activities will happen in a variety of ways, through a website, video links, Zoom-type classrooms, a mailed packet of activities that you can do at home, and more.

More details and registration information will be available by May 15th

For more information visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/107640810145/posts/10156759966795146/?d=n>

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

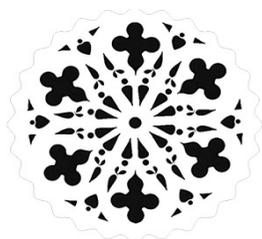
You can download the study materials for the class at <https://www.first-church.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=63AYGYY&dasi=4G3AI>

To Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82768596282?pwd=VTlEaX-ZveUdDYnRmZkV6NGdLWHI4UT09>

Meeting ID: 827 6859 6282

Password: 832922



Keep in Prayer

Paul Zimmerman, father of Doug Zimmerman; Fran Panek; Lindy Miller; Tito Sanchez, friend of Dayna McCrary; Joan Lebold; Paul Flocken; The Dannenbergers; the Kirklands; Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz; Amy Smith, sister of Sarah Lange; Arlene Reynolds; Mariner Taft; Joyce Marcum, sister of Betty Conn; Kelly Harris, friend of Mark Williams; Ilene Beasley, friend of Steven Ferris; all medical professionals in our congregation who are on the front lines and all those affected by illness, especially the Coronavirus including: Alex Ramsey, grandson of Nancy Livingston; and Randy Matlock, co-worker of Denise Vogt; Calvin Roth, Father of Julie Roth; Michael Fitzmaurice and his brother, Stephan Mano; Austin Akey, grandson of Melva Fisher; Richard Brant; Mike Bittle, brother-in-law of Melva Fisher; and those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including the family and friends of Carl Miller, Peggy Alexander and Patty Pohlman; Mike Valinis and family on the death of his brother, Adam Valinis; Jorge Fernandez, on the death of his mother; and Allen Baker, on the death of his brother.

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 this number 614-733-4547 and leave a message. Someone will return your call as needed.

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.

Cash and designated checks go to Strengthen the Church. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Thank you for your generosity,



Upcoming Mission:

5/24- Lutheran Social Services: Homeless Veterans Families

**5/31- Youth Mental Health Project
(selected by the 2020 Confirmation Class)**

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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