



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 19, 2019

The Fifth Sunday of Easter/Confirmation

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 166 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 Welcome Notebooks and should be 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 *Chant de Mai, Op. 58* Joseph Jongen

ENTER TO WORSHIP Jack Trace

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

* Then all stand.

L: Let praise to God resound in the heavens!

P: Let praise to God fill the earth!

L: Let all God's angels offer praise and rejoicing!

P: Let all God's creatures sing praise and joy!

L: Open your hearts and spirits today.

P: Let us praise the Lord today and always! Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 455 All Creatures of Our God and King
Lasst uns erfreuen

* INVOCATION Mr. Trace

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE Matty Provenzano
Please find the attendance pad in the Welcome Notebook at the end of each pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor.

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 be seated.

CONFIRMATION ANTHEM Come to the Water Cary Ratcliff

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord. Let them come to the Lord without money, without price. Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water, and let all who have nothing let them come to the Lord. Let them come to the Lord, without money without strife. Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water, and let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord. Let them come to the Lord, all who labor without rest. How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water. Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord. Bring them all to the Lord, bring the children without might. Easy the load and light. O come to the Lord.

— John B. Foley, SJ

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION: AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

INVITATION The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

* CONFIRMATION HYMN We Come to You Mentor
As we sing stanzas 1 and 2, parents and mentors join the Confirmands on the Chancel steps.

1. We come to you by wa - ter and by word, Filled with your Spi - rit,
 2. O God who made the earth and sky and sea, Sculp - ted in love, di -

seek - ing Christ as Lord, Con - firm in us di - vine and ten - der
 verse hu - man - i - ty. Set stars in or - bit through e - ter - ni -

love. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 ty.

| Confirmands | Parents | Mentors |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Lincoln Taylor Glaros | Chris and Lauren Glaros | Joe Baszynski |
| William Lee Haslett | Chris and Valerie Haslett | John Deliman |
| Madeline Day Elizabeth Helmer | Katharine Day Fewlass | Jenny Provenzano |
| Aaron Walker Stewart Hunt | Jeff Hunt and Ann Eidson-Hunt | Jonathan Miller |
| Benjamin Hunter Mailer | David and Amy Mailer | Scott Jones |
| Alyssia Simone Palmer | Allison Lowery Palmer | Dayna McCrary |
| Matty McKenna Provenzano | Joe and Jenny Provenzano | Lissa Wade |
| Jack Frank Trace | Tom and Sarah Trace | Matt Myers |

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES Rev. Ahrens

PRAYERS OF THE CANDIDATES Rev. Ahrens and Confirmands

PRAYER OF THE CONGREGATION Jacquelyn Dean

L: Let us pray in silence for these candidates for confirmation.

(silence)

All: Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION Rev. Ahrens

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION Rev. Ahrens

* WELCOME Todd Jacobson

Members of the church who are able may stand.

L: Let us, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

* GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE Mr. Jacobson

* PRAYER OF BLESSING Rev. Ahrens

* CONFIRMATION HYMN (stanzas 3–5) We Come to You Mentor
As the hymn is sung, Confirmands are given a cross, baptismal cards, and a certificate of church membership. Please be seated at the conclusion of the hymn.

3. O Ho - ly Spi - rit, fall like heav-en's dew, Be born with - in our
 4. Je - sus, who heals us, saves and gives us life, Friend who sus - tains us
 5. God, may your church from age to age en - dure, Bring - ing to Christ all

hearts on fire for you, Set us a - blaze to share Good News a -
 in the midst of strife, O ris - en Lord, em - pow - er us for
 peo - ple, rich and poor, and may our joy - ful song be ev - er

new. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 life. sure.

CHILDREN'S TIME Will Haslett and Ben Mailer

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 11:1–18 (N.T. p. 130) Madeline Helmer
L: The Word of God for the people of God.
P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Shine On Me Spiritual, arr. Rollo Dilworth
Shine on me. Shine on me. I wonder if the lighthouse will shine on me.

THE REVELATION TO JOHN 21:1–6 (N.T. p. 259) Alyssia Palmer
L: The Word of God for the people of God.
P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 339 Be Thou My Vision Slane
The children, Kindergarten through Second grade will return to sit with their family for the remainder of worship. 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 13:31–35 (N.T. p. 108) Lincoln Glaros
L: The Word of God for the people of God.
P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Mr. Haslett/Ms. Helmer
A time of reflection follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Ms. Provenzano

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.**

THE OFFERTORY

MISSION INVITATION Mr. Glaros and Ms. Helmer
Cash and designated checks go to **Central Ohio Spina Bifida Alliance (COSBA)** and the **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)**. COSBA's mission is to raise awareness of Spina Bifida and to make a difference in the lives of all who are touched by Spina Bifida in the Central Ohio area. Since 2001, COSBA has offered support to new families, organized social gatherings and helped with Spina Bifida-related financial needs. NAMI's mission is to improve the quality of life and ensure dignity and respect for persons with serious mental illness, and offer support to their families and close friends. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERING STEWARDS Aaron Hunt and Jonathan Miller

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ANTHEM Even When He Is Silent Kim André Arnesen
I believe in the sun even when it's not shining.
I believe in love even when I feel it not.
I believe in God even when He is silent.
—Anon., 20th cen.

* 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 Ms. Provenzano

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 427 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service
Blaenhafren

* BENECTION Mr. Trace

POSTLUDE Paeon Kenneth Leighton

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found welcome, 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: Erin Dean and Naomi Holt

† CRUCIFER: Alex Palmer

† MUSIC: The Jubilate Choir, Sandra Mathias, *director*; The Exultate and First Church Choirs; Kevin Jones, *organist and director*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory to God and loving memory of parents Everett and Miriam Kelm, Lowell and Juanita Kallner, and son Michael Kelm by Pam Kallner and Russ Kelm.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:
Broad Street – Mr. Williams
Ninth Street – Anthony Brown
Education Wing – Amy Wagner

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.



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