



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 23, 2021

The Day of Pentecost

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.*

*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

Prélude on *Veni Creator*, Op. 4

Maurice Duruflé

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Mark S. Williams

Leader: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

** Then all stand.*

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence!

P: For God has done wondrous things for us.

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with the power of the rushing wind
that we may faithfully serve you in all that we do.

P: For Christ has called each of us and blessed us!

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today.

P: Help us to boldly proclaim Christ Risen. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN

Hail thee, festival day!

Salva festa dies

Refrain

Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! blest day that art hal - lowed for ev - er,
To verses, then Fine

day when the Ho - ly Ghost shone in the world with God's grace.

1. Lo, in the like - ness of fire, on those who a - wait the ap - pear - ing,
 3. Hark! for in myr - i - ad tongues Christ's own, the cho - sen a - pos - tles,
Repeat refrain

thus whom the Lord fore - told sud - den - ly, swift - ly de - scends:
 preach to the ends of the earth Christ and his won - der - ful works:

2. Com - ing from God a - bove with seven - fold mys - ti - cal of - fering,
 4. Praise to the Spi - rit of Life, all praise to the fount of our be - ing,
Repeat refrain

pour - ing on hu - man souls in - fi - nite rich - es of God:
 light that now light - ens all, life that in all now a - bides:

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Today we welcome into membership: LJ Cooks; Mary Jo Hudson; Beth Moseley; John & Chris Moseley; John Parsons & Karin Sandell; and Janice Taft.

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT (*unison*)

The church is a community of faith called to witness and to serve. 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.

WELCOME (*unison*)

We welcome you with joy to the life and ministry of The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Columbus, Ohio. We promise you our 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 faithful witnesses to the ways of Christ, our Lord and Savior.

* 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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Susan Sitler

A reading from the book of Ezekiel, chapter 37.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

P: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

By the Grace of the Spirit
Dustin Jarred, *soloist*

Andrew Gant

By the grace of the Spirit we find God in mist of dawn, in the shadows of the forest, in the leaping of the fawn. We discover in hushed moments God's own pure serenity, and we sing Alleluia.

By the grace of the Spirit we find God in music's air as both song and joyous anthem bind our hearts in concord rare. In the melodies of grateful praise we define God's sanctity, and we sing Alleluia.

By the grace of the Spirit we find God in Bethlem's stall, in Epiphany, in passion, on the Cross Christ bore for all. We acknowledge the ascension of the blessed Lamb of God, and we sing Alleluia.

By the grace of the Spirit we exalt Creator's name when we validate in mission full redemption through Christ's claim. May the counsel of the Spirit guide us in God's holy way as we sing Alleluia.

—Evelyn Miller

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

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

P: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN

Come forth, O Love divine

Down Ampney

1. Come forth, O Love di - vine, seek now this soul of mine, and vis - it it with
 2. O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn to dust and ash - es
 3. And so the year - ing strong with which the soul will long, shall far out - pass the

your own ar - dor glow - ing; O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my
 in its heat con - sum - ing; And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er
 power of hu - man tell - ing; For none can guess its grace, till love cre -

heart ap - pear, and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 ate a place where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Please remain standing for the Gospel.

* THE GOSPEL

John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 15.

Jesus said to his disciples, “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

P: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

PENTECOST MEDITATION

“God’s Spirit in the Bones and the Wind”

Rev. Ahrens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Corzine

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

Designated gifts go to **Strengthen the Church**. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support will help the UCC fulfill 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.

ANTHEM

Even When He is Silent
(pre-recorded)

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 c.

* PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

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. Ahrens

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

Rev. Corzine

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.

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN

Earth and All Stars

Dexter



1. Earth and all stars, Loud rush - ing plan - ets Sing to the Lord a new song!
 2. Steel and ma - chines, Loud pound - ing ham - mers Sing to the Lord a new song!
 3. Knowl - edge and truth, Loud sound - ing wis - dom Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain, Loud blow - ing snow - storm Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Lime - stone and beams, Loud build - ing work - ers Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Daugh - ter and son, Loud pray - ing mem - bers Sing to the Lord a new song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things. We will sing prais - es with a new song!

* PRAYER OF SENDING AND PROMISE OF RETURN OF THE REV. DR. TIMOTHY C. AHRENS

Rev. Corzine

Rev. Corzine: As Rev. Ahrens goes forth on his sabbatical, we offer our blessings and our prayers of thanksgiving. We trust the Holy Spirit will guide him, his family, and us, while we are apart one from the other. During this period of refreshment, we will include Tim in our weekly Prayers of the People, and we commend him to all of you for your daily prayers. Let us come together now as a covenant people, sharing our commitment to the grace of God; praying for God's strength and guidance for the journey.

***People:* We pray for refreshment of spirit, by the power of God's Holy Spirit.**

Rev. Ahrens: God's blessing be upon you all as I seek renewal of God's calling to ministry.

***People:* God be with you while we are away from one another. God fill you with a light spirit as you study, reflect, and visit new surroundings.**

Rev. Ahrens: I thank God for my ministry among you and the gift of this time you've given me. As you will be praying for me, I, too, will be holding you all in prayer.

***People:* May you experience the gift of spiritual growth in your journey. We will pray that you return renewed and energized for ministry. We send you with our blessing.**

Rev. Corzine: Let us pray. Spirit of God, we pray for Rev. Ahrens's renewal and refreshment during this time of Sabbath rest. Renew him for ministry through this time set aside for reflection and study, the refreshment of a break from daily tasks and routine, and the excitement of new learning and direction. Grace him with your presence and keep him steadfast in the faith while we are gone one from another.

All: Amen.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Final (Choral Variations on *Veni Creator*)

Maurice Duruflé

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given by Donice Wooster to the glory of God and in memory of Burdette Green.

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *celebrant and preacher*

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *liturgist*

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Susan Sitler, *Hebrew scripture reader*

Allison Lowery Palmer, *Acts reader*

Dustin Jarred, *soloist*

Kevin Jones, *organist*

Peter Murray and Mike Kennedy, *livestream ministry*

Please join us on ZOOM for a virtual coffee hour immediately following this service especially to wish

Rev. Ahrens well on his sabbatical.

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

ZOOM meeting ID: 884 9421 6574

Password: 693317

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

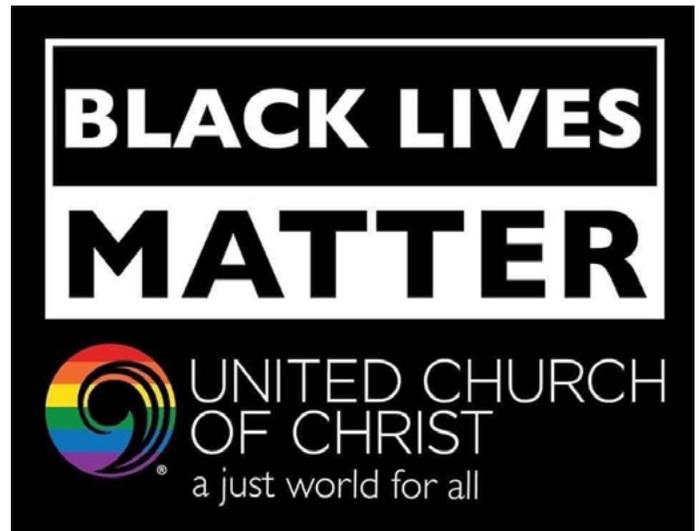
May 23, 2021

This Week at First Church

5/23	
9 a.m.	Worship
9:45 a.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour
11 a.m.	Worship
12 Noon	Virtual Coffee Hour
6:30 p.m.	Youth Connections
5/24-9/7	Rev. Tim's Sabbatical
5/25	
7 p.m.	Deacons Mtg

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).

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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Visit <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/strengthen-the-church/> to learn more about the mission.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

May 30	Deep Griha
June 6	Ohio Fair Food Coalition
June 13	UCC Heartland Conference, Outdoor Ministries
June 20	Compass
June 27	Pathways Clubhouse

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

Business Administrator Annette McCormick

Building and Grounds Superintendent Mark Dahnke

Building and Grounds Assistant Darrell Cross

Custodian Jimmy Sibrian

Wedding Coordinators Amy Wagner, 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

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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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