



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

May 24, 2020

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 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

*Lento* (Sonata 5, BWV 529)

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Mark S. Williams

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

*\* Then all stand.*

L: Jesus prayed for his disciples, giving them into God's eternal care.

**P: Jesus prays for us, giving us into God's care.**

L: Know that you have been blessed with the love of the Savior.

**P: We live in that love and seek to serve God.**

L: Open your hearts and spirits now to hear God's word.

**P: May our lives be open to God's Spirit and reflect God's love. Amen.**



1. Hail the day that sees Christ rise,  
 2. There for him high tri - umph waits;  
 3. High - est heaven its Lord re - ceives;  
 4. Still for us he in - ter - cedes;  
 5. There we shall with you re - main,

Al - - le - lu - ia!

to his throne be - yond the skies.  
 lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates.  
 Je - sus loves the earth he leaves,  
 his a - ton - ing death he pleads,  
 part - ners of your end - less reign,

Al - - le - lu - ia!

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners given,  
 Christ has con - quered death and sin;  
 Though re - turn - ing to his throne,  
 there for us pre - pares our place,  
 see you with un - cloud - ed view,

Al - - le - lu - ia!

en - ters now the high - est heaven.  
 take the glo - rious Sove - reign in.  
 still he calls us all his own.  
 Christ the first - fruits of our race.  
 find our heaven of heavens in you.

Al - - le - lu - ia!

\* INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: O God, the Mighty One of glory, you have exalted Jesus Christ with great triumph to your dominion in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and bring us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

\* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Corzine

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

1:6–14

Kevin Jones

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

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE

1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11

Rev. Ahrens

*A reading from the first book of Peter, chapter 4.*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

Prayer to Jesus  
(pre-recorded)

Ned Rorem

Jesu that dost in Mary dwell  
 Be in thy servants' hearts as well,  
 In the spirit of thy holiness,  
 In the fullness of thy force and stress,  
 In the very ways that thy life goes  
 And virtues that thy pattern shows,  
 In sharing of thy mysteries;  
 And every power in us that is  
 Against that power put under feet  
 In the Holy Ghost the Paraclete  
 To the glory of the Father. Amen.  
 —Gerard Manley Hopkins, *Oratio Patris Condren: O Jesus vivens in Maria*

## THE GOSPEL

## John 17:1–11

Rev. Corzine

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

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. “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.”

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

## “Glory and Giving: That All May Be One”

Rev. Corzine

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens

## 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. Ahrens

Cash and designated checks go to **Lutheran Social Services: Supportive Services for Veterans Families**. Our neighborhood partner, Faith Mission, has two programs for homeless veterans—emergency shelter beds specifically for veterans and the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. SSVF helps veteran families obtain stable housing, whether they are currently homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless. Families work with case managers to provide needed temporary financial assistance, linkage with community and VA benefits, and a plan to improve their housing stability. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

God Is Gone Up  
*(pre-recorded)*

Gerald Finzi

God is gone up with a triumphant shout:  
The Lord with sounding Trumpets' melodies:  
Sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praises out,  
Unto our King sing praise seraphicwise!  
Lift up your Heads, ye lasting Doors, they sing,  
And let the King of Glory enter in.

Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly,  
In flakes of Glory down him to attend,  
And hear Heart-cramping notes of Melody  
Surround his Chariot as it did ascend;  
Mixing their Music, making ev'ry string  
More to enravish as they this tune sing.  
—Edward Taylor (1646?–1729)

\* 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. Ahrens

*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.**

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!

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE

Nimrod (Enigma Variations, Op. 36)

Edward Elgar,  
arr. William H. Harris

*The postlude is offered this Memorial Day weekend in memory and honor of the women and men who gave their lives while serving in the U.S. military. Nimrod was identified in the book of Genesis as "the mighty hunter before the Lord". And thus, this piece honors their bravery, courage, and sacrifice.*

*The stained glass windows featured during the postlude today are the Parables of Christ windows located above the east and west aisles, and were designed by Gabriel Loire and built by Jacques Loire Vitraux, Chartres, France, from 1976 to 1983. They blend modern and traditional elements, often taking on a mosaic-like quality in their portrayals of many of the parables of Jesus found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.*

# Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

## This Week at First Church

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

5/24	
11 a.m.	Worship
5/25	
	Office closed
5/26	
7 p.m.	Confirmands Recording
5/28	
10:30 a.m.	Acts Comes Alive Bible Study

## 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.

## First Church to be Part of The Big Give

**The Big Give**, through **The Columbus Foundation**, **June 10, 10 a.m. – June 11 at 11 a.m.**, is our community’s rally to lift up and help nonprofits. Through The Big Give, our community joins together to generously support the nonprofits that help make our region an amazing place to live. During this 25-hour online giving event, your donation to The Giving Store will be boosted, thanks to a \$1.5 million Bonus Pool, provided by The Columbus Foundation and corporate and community partners—the largest in Big Give history! Further, all credit card fees will be covered by the Foundation, so 100 percent of your donations go to the nonprofit(s) of your choice. We hope you will join us in this extraordinary opportunity to rally together because we are truly better together. More information will be coming very soon!

## Introducing Summer 2020 Camp 2.0!

Read all about it and register online here:

[https://bit.ly/HeartlandCamp2\\_0](https://bit.ly/HeartlandCamp2_0)

What’s in store?

Your favorite camps:

- Choir
- Sports
- MMADD
- Faith Adventures
- Grands and Pals
- Hanging with the Spirit

A fun online interface with our all new Camp 2.0 web site!

And it’s all free (though we are gratefully accepting donations to support the mission of Heartland Conference Outdoor Ministries)!

See you around the virtual campfire this summer!

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## 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.

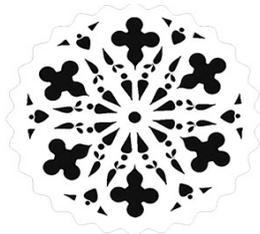
Here is the line-up of weeks of study.

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



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## Keep in Prayer

Martha Huey; Paul Zimmerman, father of Doug Zimmerman; Fran Panek; Lindy Miller and Tito Sanchez, friend of Dayna McCrary; Paul Flocken; Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz; Calvin Roth, father of Julie Roth; Michael Fitzmaurice and his brother, Stephan Mano; Amy Smith, sister of Sarah Lange; Arlene Reynolds; 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: Jonathan Miller's father and Finnegan's grandfather, George J. Miller; Susie Loik's daughter, Kristen Glover, RN at Corrections Reception Center in Pickaway County; and those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including; Pat Patterson's daughter-in-law Chelsea Patterson, on the death of her mother, Dorothy Ferguson; Sam and Jean Lebold and family on the death of Sam's mother, Joan Lebold; the family and friends of Carl Miller who died from COVID-19; 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.

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### 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.

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## 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](http://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](mailto:pmantor@first-church.org) or Rev. Emily Corzine at [ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org).

Cash and dedicated checks go to **Lutheran Social Services**. Their neighborhood partner, Faith Mission, has two programs for homeless veterans – emergency shelter beds specifically for veterans and the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. SSVF helps veteran families obtain stable housing, whether they are currently homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless. Families work with case managers to provide needed temporary financial assistance, linkage with community and VA benefits and a plan to improve their housing stability. Thank you for your generosity.



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### Upcoming Mission Offerings:

May 31: Youth Mental Health Project  
June 7: Coalition of Immokalee Workers  
June 14: Knight Perry Fund  
June 21: Deep Griha  
June 28: Equitas Health

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## 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](http://www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx)



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