



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 26, 2019

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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 *Christ ist erstanden*, BWV 627 J.S. Bach
(Christ is Arisen)

ENTER TO WORSHIP G. Dene Barnard

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

** Then all stand.*

L: We come together this day, drawn by the light of God's love!

P: In God's eternal kingdom, darkness and despair are vanquished.

L: In God's eternal realm, peace and hope reign!

P: Let all the people praise God with their music and their voices!

L: Let all the people praise God with their deeds of loving-kindness!

P: Praise be to God. Amen!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 453 O Holy City, Seen of John *Morning Song*

* INVOCATION The Rev. Rachael Gardner Purdy

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE Anthony Brown

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME Mark S. Williams

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 16:9–15 (N.T. p. 136) Mr. Barnard

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

P: Thanks be to God.

MOTET *Viri Galilaei* Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

*Viri Galilaei, qui statis aspicientes in coelum?
 Hic Jesus, qui assumptus est a vobis in coelum,
 sic veniet quemadmodum vidistis eum euntem in coelum. Alleluia.*

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. Alleluia.
 —Acts 1:11

THE REVELATION TO JOHN 21:10, 22—22:5 (N.T. p. 259) Mr. Barnard

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 473 For the Beauty of the Earth *Dix*

During the hymn, Children, Kindergarten through 2nd grade, are invited to the Worship Connections in the Children's Library on the 2nd floor of the Education Wing. They will return after the meditation. A fully staffed childcare ministry is provided during each Sunday Morning Worship Service and Education Hour for infants through age 4. This ministry is located in the nursery and toddler rooms on the first floor of the Education Wing.

THE GOSPEL John 14:23–29 (N.T. p. 109) Mr. Brown

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Look For Lydia. Look To Lydia" Mr. Brown

A time of reflection follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Purdy

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

Cash and designated checks go to **Strengthen the Church**, one of five Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations, including, in 2018, the completion of the Manual on Ministry and the Adese Fellowship program for spiritual entrepreneurship that worked to alleviate poverty. Your donations will help the UCC fulfill its commitment of creating a just world for all. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM Let the People Praise Thee, O God William Mathias

Let the people praise thee, O God; yea, let all the people praise thee.
 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.
 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.
 God shall bless us, and all the ends of the world shall fear him.
 God be merciful unto us, and bless us: and show us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us.
 That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen
 —Psalm 67

* 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. Purdy

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 446 Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken *Austria*

* BENEDICTION Mr. Brown

POSTLUDE Præludium in G Nikolaus Bruhns

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: Carmen Axt and Maya Haslett

† CRUCIFER: Miriam Myers

† MUSIC: The First Church Choir; Kevin Jones, *organist and director*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given by Lola Edwards to the glory of God and in honor of those who are serving or have served in the armed services that keep our country safe.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:
Broad Street – Mr. Brown
Ninth Street – Mr. Williams
Education Wing – Rev. Purdy

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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.

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