



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 3, 2018

The Second Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 4

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 165 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 can assist you.

Cards requesting prayer are in the pew racks and 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 Crown Imperial William Walton

ENTER TO WORSHIP Janet Newcity

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: Creating God, we gather in your name to worship you.

P: We give thanks that there is a small spark of God within us.

All: Kindle that small spark into a flame of love and service.

L: Sustaining God, we gather in your name to worship you.

P: We celebrate the loving presence of God in our life.

All: May God's loving presence be a strong influence in our life.

L: Nurturing God, we gather in your name to worship you.

P: We rejoice that God teaches us about love and forgiveness.

All: As we grow in faith, trust and love for God, may our worship, witness and service bring honour to God's Holy Name. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 434 Today we all are called to be disciples *Kingsfold*

* INVOCATION The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, your never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth: Put away from us, we entreat you, all hurtful things, and give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever 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 the sign of Christ's peace.

Please find the attendance pad at the end of the pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor.

CHILDREN'S TIME Dr. Karen Mozingo

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 3:1–10 (O.T., p. 247) Ms. Newcity

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 4:5–12 (N.T., p. 180) Ms. Newcity

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 357 O Master, let me walk with Thee *Maryton*

During the hymn, children, Kindergarten through Second grade, are invited to the Worship Connections in the Children's Library on the second 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 four. This ministry is located in the Nursery and Toddler rooms on the first floor of the Education Wing.

THE GOSPEL Mark 2:23—3:6 (N.T., p. 36) Ms. Newcity

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

P: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION Rev. Ahrens

“Which Will It Be: Do Good or Harm on the Sabbath?”

A time of reflection follows.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Ahrens

(Today, the Lord's Prayer will be prayed as part of the Communion liturgy.)

THE OFFERTORY

Want to give online? Please see the Depart to Serve leaflet for more information and a QR link.

MISSION INVITATION Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated checks go to **Strengthen the Church**, one of five Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ. Strengthen the Church reimagines and builds the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM Antiphon William Walton

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly,

the earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out; but, above all, the heart must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

—George Herbert (1593–1633)

* PRESENTATION HYMN 591 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. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. (Wheat-free rice flour bread is available on the trays, cut into circles.) Cups with the purple ribbon around them are filled with wine.

* INVITATION

* SURSUM CORDA

Plainsong

* COMMUNION PRAYER

* SANCTUS

William Mathias

The congregation may be seated.

L: ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
P: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

(The Communion Prayer continues)

L: ...Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.
P: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ANTHEM O Sacred Feast Healey Willan
O Sacred Feast, wherein Christ is received, the memory of His Passion is renewed in us, our souls are filled with grace, and the pledge of everlasting glory is given unto us. Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya.

Please remain seated for the Prayer of Thanksgiving

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Rev. Ahrens
L: Let us pray.
All: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE Dr. Mozingo
L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN 282 If thou but trust in God
Wer nur den lieben Gott

* COMMISSIONING OF YOUTH MISSION TRIP & BENEDICTION
Rev. Ahrens & Dr. Mozingo

Leader ... This coming week, from June 3 through 8, these eleven youth and adults will go to the heart of West Franklinton for times of devotion, team building, and work experiences with the Senior Assistance Program of Gladden Community House and homeless camps in Columbus.
All: We support this valuable and unique ministry.
L: Jesus himself commanded us all to go into the world. This summer, youth and adults of First Church have made the commitment to live out this Great Commission.

All: We pray that the Holy Spirit will fill you, empower you and guide you.

L: As this group of First Church travel in Columbus and West Franklinton, they will be inviting people to seek God's face, to experience Christ's love, and to radiate God's Spirit in the world, as they themselves will also be invited to do the same. The people whom they will meet will have many spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. These youth will feed those they encounter—literally and figuratively—and they themselves will be fed as well.

All: We offer our blessing on those who are soon to leave.

L: God has promised to always be with us. God invites us to abide in him and promises to always abide in us.

Mission Trip Participants: We thank God for this promise. Strengthened by the awareness of God's presence within us, we offer ourselves to God's purposes and accept God's calling to go on this mission trip.

L: There will be many challenges on this journey, but you are led by the greatest of all shepherds, God. God knows where and how we can find what we need most in any given situation. God will be with you and will guide you.

Mission Trip Participants: We joyfully offer our gifts and talents, our energy and enthusiasm, as we look towards the many challenges that our mission trip will bring.

All: We thank God for the inspiration you are to us. We offer our prayers and support as you set out on this adventure with God.

POSTLUDE *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten*, BWV 647
J.S. Bach

Please be seated for the postlude

Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found 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: Ethan Murray and Matty Provenzano

CRUCIFER: Joe Spofforth

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

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 – Rev. Ahrens
Ninth Street – Amy Wagner
Education Wing – Dr. Mozingo

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.

Our Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, believe the following represents our commitment and desire to reach out and welcome all those in need of and searching for God's love: We believe that we are all created in God's image, female and male, and we are called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, and called to unite all people in God's love. We welcome and affirm all people. We invite those who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join us on our common journey. Our faith community seeks to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, mental and physical abilities, socioeconomic levels and political and theological 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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