



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 16, 2019

Trinity Sunday

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 All Glory Be to God on High, BWV 664 J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP Francille Firebaugh

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: The name of the Lord is majestic!

P: The mountains tower and the seas roar in praise of God!

L: When we look at the heavens, we rejoice in God!

P: The moons, stars, planets, solar systems are a delight to us!

L: Come, let us shout our praise to God!

P: Lord, thank you for this amazing creation! Amen.

* OPENING HYMN 138 Holy, Holy, Holy Nicaea

* INVOCATION The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, for you live and reign, one God in three Persons, for ever and ever. Amen.

* WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Ahrens

Please find the attendance pad at the end of the 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

BAPTISM HYMN 498 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (*stanzas 1–2*)
Kingdom

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR
 ELLIOTT IMANI BROWN

We welcome Elliott Imani Brown, parents Anthony and Maria, godparents Thomas and Amanda Lumpkin (in absentia), and Past Senior Deacon Janet Newcity. Members and friends are invited to write a prayer and greeting to Elliott on the baptismal cards found in the Welcome Notebooks. Please write her name at the top and today's date on the bottom of the card. Please place the cards in the offering plate at the time of the Offertory.

WELCOME

Leader: . . . But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,
People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

ADDRESS

L: . . . the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

P: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

* CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

The congregation is invited to stand.

L: . . . Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as Elliott lives and grows in Christ?

P: We promise our love, support, and care.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

P: I believe in God.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

P: I believe in Jesus Christ.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

P: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

L: Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

ACT OF BAPTISM

NAMING OF THE CHILD

L: Elliott Imani Brown, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Rise from the waters of baptism and give glory to God all the days of your life.

P: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

L: Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this newest member of the body of Christ.

P: Give to Elliott strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

BAPTISM HYMN 498 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (*stanzas 3–4*)
Kingdom

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31 (O.T. p. 590)
 Mrs. Firebaugh

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Romans 5:1–5 (N.T. p. 155) Mrs. Firebaugh

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 133 All Glory Be to God on High

Allein Gott in der Höh

During the hymn, children in Kindergarten through Second Grade are invited to 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 John 16:12–15 (N.T. p. 110) Mr. Brown

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

P: Thanks be to God.

BAPTISMAL MEDITATION "Unbearable Realities" Mr. Brown

A time of reflection follows.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens

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

Dr. Wallich

In 1969, a national United Church of Christ body affirmed the civil rights of LGBT persons. In 1972, the UCC ordained the Rev. Bill Johnson, the first openly gay man to be ordained by a mainline denomination. In 1985, the UCC General Synod voted to become an Open and Affirming denomination. Cash and designated checks go to UCC-LGBT Ministries to continue this legacy of love and inclusion in our national church. Thank you for your generosity.

INSTRUMENTAL All Glory Be To God On High Johann Pachelbel

* 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.

* 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.

* CLOSING HYMN Creating God, Your Fingers Trace Bourbon (The hymn is found on the next panel)

* BENEDICTION Mr. Brown

POSTLUDE Tuba Tune Norman Cocker

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: Naomi Holt and Ruby Holt

† MUSIC: Kevin Jones, organist

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Helen Peterson by her sons, David and Jon Peterson.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Mr. Brown Ninth Street – Rev. Ahrens Education Wing – Mr. Williams

CLOSING HYMN Creating God, Your Fingers Trace Bourbon

Musical notation for the first system of the closing hymn, including lyrics: 1. Cre - a - ting God, Your fin - gers trace The 2. Sus - tain - ing God, Your hands up - hold Earth's 3. Re - deem - ing God, Your arms em - brace All 4. In - dwell - ing God, Your gos - pel claims One

Musical notation for the second system of the closing hymn, including lyrics: bold de - signs of far - thest space; Let sun and moon and mys teries known or yet un - told; Let wa - ter's frag - ile now de - spised for creed or race; Let peace, de - scend - ing fam - ily with a bil - lion names; Let ev - ery life be

Musical notation for the third system of the closing hymn, including lyrics: stars and light And what lies hid - den praise Your might. blend with air En - a - bling life, pro - claim Your care. like a dove, Make known on earth Your heal - ing love. touched by grace Un - til we praise You face to face.

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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