



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 23, 2019

The Second Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 7

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)*

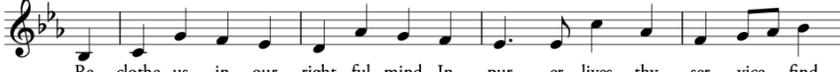
CHORAL PRELUDE He Never Failed Me Yet arr. Robert Ray
 I will sing of God's mercy, every day, every hour, He gives me power. I will sing and give thanks to Thee for all the dangers, toils and snares that He has brought me out. He is my God and I'll serve Him, no matter what the test. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet. I know God is able to deliver in time of storm. I know that he'll keep you safe from all earthly harm. One day when my weary soul is at rest. I'm going home to be forever bless'd. Didn't my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh? And didn't He cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? When I think of what my God can do, He delivered Daniel, I know He will deliver you. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet.

Crucifixus Antonio Lotti
Crucifixus, etiam pro nobis, sub Pontio Pilato, Passus, et sepultus est.
 Crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered, and was buried.

ENTER TO WORSHIP Dr. Lynn Wallich
 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: Break down the barriers that divide us, O Lord.
P: Tear down the walls of hostility and fear.
 L: Melt the barbed wire of anger and hatred.
P: Breathe new life into your people, O God.
 L: For we are called to newness in Christ Jesus.
P: We are all brothers and sisters through God's love.
 L: Come, let us worship the God who removes obstacles from our paths.
P: Let us praise God who seeks to unite us in peace. Amen.

* **OPENING HYMN** Dear Lord, Creator Good and Kind *Repton*

 1. Dear Lord, Cre-a - tor... good and kind, For - give our fool - ish ways;
 2. In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, Be - side the Sy - rian sea,
 3. Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, Till all our striv - ings cease;
 4. Breathe through the heats of our de - sire Thy cool - ness and thy balm;


 Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, In pur - er lives thy ser - vice find,
 The gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, Let us, like them, with - out a word
 Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our or - dered lives con - fess
 Let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; Speak through the earth - quake, wind, and fire,


 In deep - er rev - erence praise. In deep - er rev - erence praise.
 Rise up and fol - low thee. Rise up and fol - low thee.
 The beau - ty of thy peace. The beau - ty of thy peace.
 O still small voice of calm! O still small voice of calm!

* **INVOCATION** The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens
 L: God be with you.
P: And also with you.
 L: Let us pray.
P: O God, may we have perpetual love and reverence for your holy name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* **WELCOME** Rev. Ahrens
Please find the attendance pad in the Welcome Notebook at the end of each pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor.

THE REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM
Today we welcome into membership Whitney Carr and Jason Bumbico (daughter Julia), Janet Miller (husband Rev. Larry Miller), Megan Smith, and Barbara Sterrett.

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 the sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 65:1-9 (O.T. p. 695) Dr. Wallich
 L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Little Innocent Lamb Spiritual, arr. Marshall Bartholomew
 Little Lamb, little Lamb, little innocent Lamb, I'm a-gonna serve God till I die.
 Hypocrite, Hypocrite, Tell you what he do, He'll talk about me, And he'll talk about you. Devil, he's got a slippery shoe, Now if you don't mind, he's gonna slip it on you.
 'Cause there ain' no dyin' over in that heavenly land, There'll be joy! joy! joy!
 Just take one brick from Satan's wall, Satan's wall gonna tumble and fall.

THE EPISTLE Galatians 3:23-29 (N.T. p. 189) Dr. Wallich
 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*
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 sermon. 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 Luke 8:26-39 (N.T. p. 68) Rev. Ahrens
 L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "The Genius of Gladden" Rev. Ahrens
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

Tyler Reeve

Cash and designated checks go to **CRIS**. Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) is an independent non-profit agency serving refugees, asylees and immigrants in central Ohio. Among local community-based organizations, CRIS is the largest agency providing services to immigrants in Central Ohio, and is the agency providing the most extensive services to immigrant populations in our area. Those services include immigration legal services and interpretation and translation. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl

The Angel of the Lord announced his message to Mary and she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Mary said, Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord, let it be according to your word. And the word was made flesh and came to dwell among us. Amen.

* 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

Mr. Williams

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 443

O Christ, the Great Foundation

Aurelia

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G Major, BWV 541

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 to welcome our newest members.

† ACOLYTES: Carmen Axt and Maya Haslett

† MUSIC: The Ohio State University Alumni Men's Glee Club, Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, *conductor*; Casey Cook, *accompanist*; Kevin Jones, *organist*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and celebration of their children and grandchildren by Frank and Sue Cook.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens
Ninth Street – Amy Wagner
Education Wing – Mr. Williams

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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.

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.

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.



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