



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 8, 2018 The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Proper 9

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 *Mit Freuden zart* Max Drischner

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: God's greatness is wondrous to behold.

P: Everywhere we look, we can see the imprint of God.

L: From the loftiest mountains to the crashing waters of the sea,

P: There God's greatness stands majestically.

L: God's greatness can be within the human heart.

P: Let us honor and praise God with acts of loving kindness and compassion. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN 361 How firm a foundation *Foundation*

* INVOCATION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

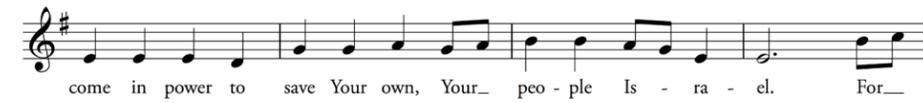
L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* SONG OF PRAISE The Song of Zechariah, stanza 1 *Kingsfold*



* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. 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 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 (O.T., p. 279)

Mrs. Firebaugh

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 (N.T., p. 185) Mrs. Firebaugh

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 393 Take up your cross *Bourbon*

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 sermon. 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 6:1-13 (N.T., p. 40) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "A Hometown Prophet" Rev. Ahrens

A time of reflection follows.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Corzine

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

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

MISSION INVITATION

Dawn George

Cash and designated checks go to the **Children's Defense Fund - Ohio** which champions policies and programs that lift children out of poverty, protect them from abuse and neglect, and ensure their access to good health care, quality education, and a moral and spiritual foundation. Thank you for your generosity.

VOLUNTARY

Chant de paix

Jean Langlais

* 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. Corzine

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Dr. Mozingo

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN 483 Sing praise to God, who reigns above
Mit Freuden zart

* PRAYER OF SENDING AND PROMISE OF RETURN OF KEVIN JONES Rev. Ahrens

Rev. Ahrens: As Kevin Jones goes forth on his sabbatical, we offer our blessings and our prayers of thanksgiving. We trust the Holy Spirit will guide him, his family and us, while we are apart one from the other. While he is away we will include Kevin in our weekly prayers of the people. We also commend them to all of you for your daily prayers. He will be praying for all of us as well. Let us come together now as a covenant people, sharing our commitment to the grace of God; praying for God's strength and guidance for the journey.
People: We pray for refreshment of spirit, by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Mr. Jones: God's blessing be upon you all as I seek renewal of God's calling to ministry.

People: God be with you while we are away from one another. God fill you with a light spirit as you study, reflect, and visit new surroundings.

Mr. Jones: I thank God for my ministry with you and the gift of this time you've given me.

People: May you experience the gift of spiritual growth in your journey. We will pray that you return renewed and energized for ministry. We send you with our blessing.

Rev. Ahrens: Let us pray. Spirit of God, we pray for Kevin's renewal and refreshment during this time of Sabbath rest. Renew him for ministry through this time set aside for reflection and study, the refreshment of a break from daily tasks and routine, and the excitement of new learning and direction. Grace him with your presence and keep him steadfast in the faith while we are gone one from another.

All: Amen!

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Mit Freuden zart

Helmut Walcha

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 name tag. We'd be delighted to assist you. Please join us in the Parish Hall for Fellowship Hour.

ACOLYTES: Finnegan Miller and Alyssia Palmer

MUSIC: Kevin Jones, *organist*

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of father Ed Waller, by his daughter Katie Waller.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Mr. Jones – Ninth Street

Rev. Corzine – Christian Education wing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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