



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 25, 2021

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Proper 12

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 168 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.*

This service is being livestreamed.

Please silence all electronic devices.

Assistive listening devices 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

Spiritual: Round About the Mountain

arr. Noel Da Costa

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Alec Deitz

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: Come, rest your spirits in the Lord.

P: We come, hungering and thirsting for God's word.

L: This is a place of peace and hope, where all may be fed and healed.

P: Bring us to the time of healing.

L: Come, place your trust in God who is always near you.

P: Open our hearts, Lord, to hear your word and feel your presence. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN

O love, how deep, how broad, how high

Deus tuorum militum



1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing thought and fan - ta - sy, that
 2. For us bap - tized, for us He bore His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore; For
 3. For us to e - vil power be - trayed, Scourged, mocked, in pur - ple robe ar - rayed, He
 4. For us He rose from death a - gain; For us He went on high to reign; For
 5. All glo - ry to our Lord and God For love so deep, so high, so broad: The



God, the Son of God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 us temp - ta - tions sharp He knew, For us the temp - ter o - ver - threw.
 bore the shame - ful cross and death, For us gave up His dy - ing breath.
 us He sent the Spir - it here To guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
 Trin - i - ty whom we a - dore For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Abby Prendergast

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our leader and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 11:1–15 (O.T., p. 284)

Mr. Deitz

A reading from the second book of Samuel, chapter 11.

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant." So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:14–21 (N.T., p. 193)

Mr. Deitz

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians, chapter 3.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being

rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL HYMN

You are called to tell the story

Julion

Introduction/Interlude

1. You are called to tell the sto - ry, pass - ing words of life a - long, Then to blend your voice with
 2. You are called to teach the rhy - thm of the dance that nev - er ends, Then to move with - in the
 3. You are called to set the ta - ble, bless - ing bread as Je - sus blessed, Then to come with thirst and
 4. May the One whose love is broad - er than the mea - sure of all space Give us words to sing the

oth - ers as you sing the sa - cred song. Christ be known in all our sing - ing, fill - ing
 cir - cle, hand in hand with strang - ers, friends. Christ be known in all our danc - ing, touch - ing
 hun - ger, need - ing care like all the rest. Christ be known in all our shar - ing, feed - ing
 sto - ry, move a - mong us in this place. Christ be known in all our liv - ing, fill - ing

all with songs of love.
 all with hands of love.
 all with signs of love.
 all with gifts of love.

Conclusion

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 6.

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Miracle of a Question”

Rev. Samuelson

A time of reflection follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Prendergast

THE 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

*Offerings may be placed in the offering plate or delivered to the church office following the service.
Want to give online? Please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve.*



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Samuelson

Designated gifts go to **Gladden Community House**, a settlement house located in the heart of Franklinton on the near west side of Columbus, which was founded as a neighborhood outreach mission of First Congregational Church. The mission is to strengthen the well-being of Franklinton's children, families and community, and build a thriving equitable neighborhood. Gladden provides community services, youth services, a preschool and a food pantry. Thank you for your generosity.

SOLO

Recitative: Ye people, rend your hearts (Elijah)

Felix Mendelssohn

Aria: If with all your hearts

Dustin Jarred, *soloist*

Ye people, rend your hearts, and not your garments; For your transgressions the prophet Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the word of God. I therefore say to ye, forsake your idols, return to God; for He is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind and gracious, and repenteth Him of the evil.

—Joel 2:12–13

“If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me.” Thus saith our God. Oh! that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before His presence!

—Deuteronomy 4:29; Job 23:3; Jeremiah 29:13

* PRESENTATION HYMN

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. Prendergast

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

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer

Cwm Rhondda

1. Guide me, O thou great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this bar - ren land; I am weak, but
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain whence the heal - ing stream doth flow; let the fire and
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side; death of death, and

thou art might - y, hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand: Bread of Heav - en, Bread of Heav - en,
 cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through: strong de - liv'r - er, strong de - liv'r - er,
 hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side: songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es,

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Samuelson

POSTLUDE

Allegro maestoso e vivace (Sonata in C Minor, Op. 65, No. 2)

Mendelssohn

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.

† WE WELCOME THE REV. ABBY PRENDERGAST to First Church leadership this morning. Welcome Rev. Prendergast!

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by the Cunningham Family in honor of Catherine and Todd's 21st wedding anniversary.

† GREETING AFTER THE SERVICE TODAY

Rev. Samuelson – On the west lawn

Rev. Prendergast – On the East Breezeway patio (accessible via the Education Wing or the elevator)

Mr. Williams – Near the Children's Playground (accessible via the Education Wing)

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *preacher*

The Rev. Abby Prendergast, *liturgist*

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Alec Deitz, *liturgist*

Dustin Jarred, *soloist*

Kevin Jones, *organist*

Peter Murray and Mike Kennedy, *livestream ministry*

In-person coffee hour will resume at a later date. You are invited, however, to join us on ZOOM for a virtual coffee hour immediately following this service.

[Click HERE to be taken to this meeting.](#)

ZOOM meeting ID: 884 9421 6574

Password: 693317



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

July 25, 2021

This Week at First Church

7/25	
9 a.m.	Worship (Sanctuary)
9:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour (Virtual)
11 a.m.	Worship (Sanctuary)
12 Noon	Coffee Hour (Virtual)
7/26	
12 p.m.	Grief Support Group
7/27	
7 p.m.	Deacons Mtg

Today is the Last Day to Donate to the Backpack & School Supply Fundraiser

The Faith Formation and Justice and Mercy Commissions have teamed up for a backpack and school supply fundraiser to benefit the Gladden Community House and our congregation children in need this school year. Funds raised will be used to purchase backpack kits, filled with age and grade-level appropriate school supplies. The cost for each kit is \$15. We hope you can encourage your friends and neighbors to join us in this fundraising.

We will have a blessing of the backpacks for our children and for the children of West Franklinton on August 15 at both services. For more information, contact Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org.

Return to In-Person Worship Information

Return to In-Person Worship
Information

Entrances:

- For 9 a.m. worship, please enter through the Education Wing doors.
- For 11 a.m. worship, please enter through West Lot or Education Wing doors.

Things to note:

Sign In upon entering worship space for contact tracing.

- If you are fully vaccinated—masks in the building are optional. You are welcome to wear masks if you wish.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear masks while in the building.
- If you are not feeling well or have a fever, a cough, or are sneezing, please stay home on Sunday for everyone's health. Likewise, if you have been diagnosed or have been exposed to Covid-19, *even if you have been fully vaccinated*, please stay home and worship with us online.
- Maintain social distancing in pews and outside.
- The Nursery will be available for children ages 4 and under for both services

Livestream Continues:

We will continue to provide our services through live stream and invite you to join us on Facebook or YouTube.

Realm: Training Opportunities Coming



Thank you to all who have accepted the invitation to join Realm. We will soon have training opportunities available for members, commissioners, and church leadership to present the many opportunities to connect with one another.

If you haven't signed up for Realm or missed the email invitation, please check your inbox for an email from Amy Wagner about signing up to access Realm.

With the launch of Realm, we have new ways for you to give!

Visit the website:

<https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/-/give/now>

To give via a mobile app:

You must reply to the Realm email invitation and set up your account before downloading the app.

Then, go to your mobile app store and download the free smartphone app for "Realm Connect." Follow the instructions to set up the app on your phone.

Via Text message:

Text "First Church" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

This number will never send unsolicited texts to you.

Please note that you may still give through Easy Tithe and PayPal. Contact Annette McCormick (amccormick@first-church.org) or Amy Wagner (awagner@first-church.org) with any questions.

A Late Summer Read

The Faith Formation Commission of First Congregational Church invites you to a church wide Late Summer Read with the book, "The Call to Unite: Voices of Hope and Awakening." The book is edited by Tim Shriver and Tom Rosshirt. We encourage you to obtain the book and read from some of the most prominent spiritual and religious leaders, poets and thinkers, singers and writers; this is a book of wisdom to light our way in dark times during these last few months of summer. We will have opportunities in August to gather virtually to discuss this insightful book. Do not miss out on this great book and discussion this summer.

First Church Book Club

Everyone is invited to join the First Church Book Club. The next meeting is Wednesday, August 4 at 7 p.m. and the book is *At the Edge of the Haight* by Katherine Seligman. If you would like more information or the link to the zoom meeting email Elaine Warren at [me-linewarren@aol.com](mailto:melinewarren@aol.com).

Virtual Coffee Hour

9 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526?pwd=L-014R1dIdmE4UzlUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09>

Meeting ID: 865 2790 7526

Password: 601438

11 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88494216574?pwd=cD-NVS0dKaEdvTGhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 9421 6574

Password: 693317

Emergency Pastoral Care Line

If you need to be in touch with Rev. Corzine or Rev. Joanna Samuelson, for emergency pastoral care or to name a prayer request, please call **614-733-4547** and leave a message. Someone will return your call as needed.

Throughout the summer sabbatical of Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens (May 24-September 7), Rev. Emily will be serving as Acting Senior Minister. Her sabbath day each week will move to Friday.

Keep in Prayer

Members Gleva Stephens; Shelly Gies; Donice Wooster; Leigh Briggs; Wayne Redenbarger; Sarah and Nathan Stadie; Debbi Kelly and Larry Thorne; Barbara Knox; Betsy Zahn; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; and Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz.

Family and friends Steven Ferris' friends Michelle Blackman, Bob Harding and Dan Schleppe's mother, Nancy Schleppe; Tim Ahrens' friend, Keegan; Jenny Provenzano's mother, Joyce Beitzel; Mark Williams' cousin, Tom Norris; Kathy Reed's friend, JD Mace; Ryan Jones' mother, Sue Jones; Carol Bensing's friend, Donna Doone; Sharon Leidheiser; Amy Wagner's niece's in-laws, Ken and Mary Pat Burke; Robert Davis, Jr's brother, Michael and family member, Wendell Dear; Kosby Carrico's father, Ladd Winne; Helen Spears and niece, Sandra Hall; and Sarah Lange's sister, Rev. Amy Smith.

Those who mourn loved ones Gary Seigerst and Jeremy Howard on the death of Gary's mom, Janice Seigerst; and the family and friends on the death of Lindy Miller.

We pray for Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens and his family while he is on sabbatical.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda. We pray for Global Ministries co-workers in China.

Please note that individuals will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks, unless specified to clergy or staff.

Give

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to “Enter to worship, depart to serve.” You can support the mission and ministry of First Church now by scanning the QR Code presented below, using either EasyTithe or PayPal, by visiting www.first-church.org/give.aspx, or by sending your offering directly to First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@first-church.org.



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Learn more about the mission of the week by visiting <https://www.gladdenhouse.org>.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

August 1	CWS - Disaster Relief
August 8	Making a Difference, Inc.
August 15	Lutheran Social Services - CHOICES
August 22	ACLU Foundation-Ohio
August 29	Equitas Health

Church Leadership

Senior Minister (*Sabbatical Through September 7, 2021*)
Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min., M.Div.
Acting Senior Minister Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div.
Sabbatical Associate Rev. Joanna Samuelson
Minister of Music Kevin Jones, M.M., M.S.E.
Director of Christian Education Mark S. Williams, M.Ed.
Administrative Manager Amy Wagner
Office Assistant Pat Patterson
Communications Consultant Melissa Kulwicki
Business Administrator Annette McCormick
Building and Grounds Superintendent Mark Dahnke
Building and Grounds Assistant Darrell Cross
Custodian Jimmy Sibrian
Wedding Coordinators Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Katie Wagner
Nursery Staff Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor, Blessing Weekly, Miranda Gumbita
Senior Deacon Al Waddell
Deacons Carol Ernst-King, Sarah Giffen, Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, Nancy Kreimer, James Lowe, Allison Lowery Palmer, Mark Sholl, Andrew Smith-VerHage, Hank Wilson, Martha Wilson, Donice Wooster, Marty Worth
Church Council Leadership
Moderator Alec Deitz
Moderator-elect Christine Farquhar
Treasurer Dennis Secor
Treasurer-elect Andy Bensing
Secretary Peter Murray
Secretary-elect Nicole Moss
Board of Trustees
Chairperson Brian Cave
Trustees Allen Baker, Alec Deitz, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Kevin Cubick (Secretary), Beth Iannarino, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren, Christopher Washington
Commissioners
Administration Brad West
Administration-Elect Dennis Secor
Church Growth Elisha Hardekopf
Church Growth-elect Geoff Smith-VerHage
Church Vitality Lee Kiesel
Church Vitality-elect Kosby Carrico
Education Margaret Graham
Education-elect Linda Slocum
House & Grounds Eric Klintworth
House & Grounds-elect Mark Brown
Justice & Mercy Lauren Muscott
Justice & Mercy-elect Kris Brant
Music, Arts & Heritage Scott Jones
Music, Arts & Heritage-elect Sandy Mathias
Members-at-Large Jonathan Miller and Finn Miller
Nominating Committee Chair Lynn Wallich

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx



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