



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 26, 2020

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 12

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 167 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.*

*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

Ceremonial Prelude
Catherine Hope Cunningham, *conductor*
(pre-recorded)

Arthur Bliss

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Mark S. Williams

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 and worship God with your whole heart.

P: We come as mustard seeds of faith.

L: Come and worship God with your whole being.

P: We come as leaven for the world.

L: Come and worship God with your whole mind.

P: We come as treasures and pearls of great price, enriching the world with our witness.

L: Come and worship God with your whole lives.

* OPENING HYMN

At the Name of Jesus

King's Weston

1. At the name of Je - sus ev' - ry knee shall bow,
 2. Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 3. Bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4. Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,
 ev' - ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now.
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 with his Fath - er's glo - ry, o'er the earth to reign;
 'Tis Cre - a - tor's pleas - ure we should call him Lord,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,
 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death - he passed.
 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

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 forever. 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 a sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mr. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Genesis 29:15-28

Alex Palmer

A reading from the book of Genesis, chapter 29.

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place,

and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 8:26–39

Mr. Palmer

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 8.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 13.

Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Get Into ‘Good Trouble’”

Rev. Ahrens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Corzine

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

Want to give online? Please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Gladden Community House**. Gladden Community House Cash and designated checks go to Gladden Community House, a settlement house located in the heart of Franklinton on the near west side of Columbus, 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.

ANTHEM

Laudate Dominum

W.A. Mozart

Lynn Eustis, *soprano*
(pre-recorded)

*Laudate Dominum omnes gentes
Laudate eum, omnes populi
Quoniam confirmata est super nos misericordia eius
Et veritas, veritas Domini manet, manet in aeternum.*

Extol him, all you peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

*Gloria Patri et Filio
Et Spiritui Sancto
Sicut erat in principio
Et nunc, et semper
Et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.*
Praise the LORD, all you nations!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.
—Psalm 117

* PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

sung to *Duke Street*

**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

Please be seated for the Notices.

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.

POSTLUDE

Toccatà (Suite for Brass and Organ)
(pre-recorded)

Craig Phillips

Please 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 26, 2020

This Week at First Church

7/26

9 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Zoom Chat
11 a.m. Worship
12 Noon Virtual Coffee Hour

7/27

12 noon Grief Support Group

7/28

1:30 p.m. A Service of Celebration for the
Life of Arlene Reynolds
7 p.m. Deacon's Mtg
BREAD's Real Change Now

7/29

9:30 a.m. Largest Table Food Prep
and Delivery
2:30 p.m. Live Stream Task Force Mtg

8/1

10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg

Celebration of Life for Arlene Reynolds

Arlene Reynolds, long time beloved member of First Congregational Church, died at home on Monday, July 6, 2020.

A service to celebrate her life will be held for family only **Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.** Because of Covid-19 this service will be live-streamed for those outside her family.

To view the service on YouTube, visit:
https://youtu.be/7FqYBgk7_4o

To view the service on FaceBook Live visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchCbus/posts/3672625572765100>

Our love and care surround Arlene's family, especially Annette Salser, Lou Flocken, and Paul Flocken; and her friends at this time.

Join us in a Church-Wide Program

The 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge has been extended and it's never too late join! New topics on Protest and Rebellion, Self Care, and a 21 Day Youth, Race & Moore.

The 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge is where you do one action to further your understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity. The Plan includes suggestions for readings, podcasts, videos, observations, and ways to form and deepen community connections. The suggested categories are: Read, Listen, Watch, Notice, Connect, Engage, Act, Reflect and Stay Inspired.

We will host Zoom meetings on Monday at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. for us to discuss what we have learned during this challenge in a safe place.

The dates for the discussions are:

July 20

August 10

August 17

The challenge is sponsored by the Christian Education and Justice and Mercy Commissions.

More information about the challenge can be found at:
https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge?fbclid=I-wAR14DWYP7qKFg7j5aokIXhfBeQhy21pV-kbvF-S8HIOCCz-m-JgQbY_bVAIk

Join Zoom Meeting 10:00 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88054839264?pwd=WFE3N-m9EdXgrbmNxVW1adHfuWVd6QT09>

Meeting ID: 880 5483 9264

Password: 754146

Join Zoom Meeting 7:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83054339411?pwd=bE1RZX-dTbElkWFZQOU9yMGxXK0R1UT09>

Meeting ID: 830 5433 9411

Password: 361493

2020 Summer Sermon Series



“For Such a Time As This: Seven Lessons for Living Through Pandemic Times” Based on Esther 4:14

We are living in trying times. These times are like nothing most of us have ever experienced. There are confluences of pandemics of with COVID-19, racism, economic hardship, and poverty all in the midst of a Presidential Election Cycle create challenges like we have never seen. How do we find our spiritual balance in times such as these?

Over the next seven weeks, we will engage a seven-part sermon series entitled, For Such a Time As This: Seven Lessons for Living Through Pandemic Times. Based on the story of Esther, Rev. Emily Corzine, Rev. Patricia Battle and I will present seven lessons for life in these times.

Please join us every Sunday on YouTube or Facebook Live. Also, share these lessons with others. Spread the word of God and the reflections we share to get us through times like these.

Blessings and love to you,
Tim

Sermon Titles for 2020 Summer Sermon Series

July 26 – “Get Into ‘Good Trouble’”

August 2 – “Learn from the Past and Don’t Repeat it”

August 9 – “Make Your Life Matter”

August 16 - “Use the VOTE intelligently, conscientiously and Prayerfully”

August 23 – To Be Announced

August 30 – To Be Announced

September 6- “Love God, self, and neighbor with Passion, Prayer, and Intelligence”

Virtual Coffee Hour



Sundays on Zoom
Immediately Following the Service Livestream

Join the Virtual Coffee Hour, immediately following each Worship Livestream.

9:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/86527907526?pwd=L014R1dldmE4U-
zlUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526?pwd=L014R1dldmE4U-zlUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09)

Meeting ID: 865 2790 7526

Password: 601438

11:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/88494216574?pwd=cDNVS0dKaEdvT-
GhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88494216574?pwd=cDNVS0dKaEdvT-GhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09)

Meeting ID: 884 9421 6574

Password: 693317

Grief Group

All are welcome to join us online
Monday, July 27 at noon for the Grief Support
Group.

Zoom meeting information

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84782239104?p-
wd=bDMzK1NnR0s2bi9jaFl0VllnRkZmZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84782239104?pwd=bDMzK1NnR0s2bi9jaFl0VllnRkZmZz09)

Meeting ID: 847 8223 9104

Password: 911200

Keep in Prayer

In celebration of the birth of Lennon Trautman, daughter of Jonathan and Angela Trautman born on July 23, 2020. Baby, Parents and big sister Charlie are all doing well.

Kelly Dodd; Betsy Zahn; Dana Navin Schultz; Lindy Miller; and Rev. Earl Fritz who celebrated his 93rd birthday yesterday and Pauline Fritz.

Charles John, father of Victor John; Susan Gatton, sister of Amy Wagner; Caleb Creech, brother-in-law to Sarah Ahrens Stadie, to be deployed to Afghanistan; Jane Mead, mother of Cindy Deliman; Will Nirote, grandson of Rev. Bill and Arevena Nirote; Tito Sanchez, friend of Dayna McCrary; Amy Smith, sister of Sarah Lange; Calvin Roth, father of Julie Roth; and Jackie Conley, friend of Linda Mumford, and her uncle Robert Capaldi, 85, who suffered massive heart attack.

Those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Brenda Maksimovic on the loss of her pet; Sheri Mauger and family, on the death of husband Mat; the Rev. Dave Shull, on the death of his mother Betty Shull; and the Reynolds and Flocken family and friends on the death of Arlene Reynolds.

The Uighur Muslim population in China who are being victimized, intimidated and robbed of their liberties because of the way they worship God.

Emergency Pastoral Care Line

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

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, 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 Pam Mantor at pmantor@first-church.org or Rev. Emily Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org.

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August Mission Offerings

August 2	CWS Disaster Relief
August 9	Make a Difference
August 16	LSS-CHOICES
August 23	ACLU Foundation of Ohio
August 30	Equitas Health

Church Leadership

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, M.Div., D. Min.

Associate Minister Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div.

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

Financial Assistant Pam Mantor

Building and Grounds Superintendent Mark Dahnke

Building and Grounds Assistant Darrell Cross

Custodian Jimmy Sibrian

Wedding Coordinators Amy Wagner, Janet Newcity, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Katie Wagner

Nursery Staff Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor, Blessing Weekly, Miranda Gumbita

Senior Deacon James Velo

Deacons Carol Ernst-King, Shelly Gies, Sarah Giffen, Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Lanier Holt, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, James Lowe, Dayna McCrary, Allison Lowery Palmer, Mark Sholl, Andrew Smith-Verhage, Al Waddell, Marty Worth

Church Council Leadership

Moderator Lynn Wallich; **Moderator-elect** Alec Deitz;

Treasurer Dennis Secor; **Treasurer-elect** Matt Myers;

Secretary Jim Griffin; **Secretary-elect** Peter Murray

Board of Trustees

Chairperson Chris Farquhar; **Trustees** Allen Baker, Brian Cave, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn, Kevin Cubick, Tom Hadley, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren

Commissioners

Administration Andy Bensing; **Administration-elect** Brad West; **Church Growth** Cheryl Hoskinson; **Church Growth-elect** Elisha Hardekopf; **Church Vitality** Fran Panek; **Church Vitality-elect** Lee Kiesel; **Education** Stacie Sholl; **Education-elect** Margaret Graham; **House & Grounds** Victor John; **House & Grounds-elect** Eric Klintworth; **Justice & Mercy** Kaye Martin; **Justice & Mercy-elect** Lauren Muscott; **Music, Arts & Heritage** David Mailer; **Music, Arts & Heritage-elect** Scott Jones; **Members-at-Large** Mel Prendergast & Mia Provenzano; **Nominating Committee Chair** Joe Baszynski

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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