



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 28, 2019

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 12

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 *Bist du bei mir*, BWV 508 J.S. Bach, arr. McChesney  
 When Morning Gilds the Skies Joseph Barnby, arr. Maggs

ENTER TO WORSHIP Jim Griffin

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! Join the fellowship of God's people—people who gather as faithful disciples of Christ.

**P: We seek the One who frees us from uncertainty and doubt.**

L: Come! Join the welcome of God's people—people who meet together for justice and peace.

**P: We seek the One who is trustworthy,  
 the One who gives us what is good.**

L: Come! Join the celebration of God's people—people of the One who was, and is, and shall ever be.

**P: We raise our voices in praise and honor to God,  
 and worship the One who is faithful.**

\* OPENING HYMN 148 At the Name of Jesus King's Weston

\* INVOCATION Anthony Brown

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 & PASSING OF THE PEACE The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. 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 497 With Grateful Hearts (*stanzas 1 and 2*) St. Clement

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR

EMERSON LEIGH MARKER

*We welcome Emerson, parents Dan and Whitney Marker, and Senior Deacon Todd Jacobson. Members and friends are invited to write prayers and greetings to Emerson 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 Emerson 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 CHILDREN

L: Emerson Leigh Marker, 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 Emerson 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 497 With Grateful Hearts (*stanzas 3 and 4*) St. Clement

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Genesis 18:20–32 (O.T. p. 14) Mr. Griffin

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE Colossians 2:6–15 (N.T. p. 200) Mr. Griffin

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN 590 Our Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth Vater unser

*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 Luke 11:1–13 (N.T. p. 72) Rev. Ahrens  
L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.  
**P: Thanks be to God.**

BAPTISMAL MEDITATION “Slaves Arriving” Rev. Ahrens  
*Part one of the six-part sermon series, “400 Years of Africans in America.”*  
*A time of reflection follows.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Mr. Brown  
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 Todd and Aran Cunningham  
Cash and designated checks go to **Faith Mission**. Each month a team of First Congregational Church volunteers prepares a meal and serves it at Faith Mission. Your donations ensure that the team has the resources to provide a nourishing meal to those whom Faith Mission serves. Thank you for your generosity.

VOLUNTARY Our Father, Who Art in Heaven, BWV 683 Bach

\* PRESENTATION HYMN 375 Lord of All Good, *stanza 1* Toulon  
**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to You;  
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill;  
Tokens of love and pledges brought anew,  
That our whole life is offered to Your will.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Mr. Brown  
*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 416 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation  
*Westminster Abbey*

\* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens  
POSTLUDE Our Father, Who Art in Heaven, BWV 737 Bach

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

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*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.*

† ACOLYTES: Ethan Murray and Maya Haslett

† MUSIC: SallyJane Mathias, Jennifer Fry, Wyatt Shimeall, Kevin Jones, *handbell quartet*; Kevin Jones, *organist*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in honor of the Buel family, who through the generations gave our family so much for which to be thankful, by Pat Patterson; and in loving memory of Margene Whittenburg by her sister Kris Utterback. A memorial service for Margene will be held this afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:  
Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens  
Ninth Street – Mr. Brown  
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.

## 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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