

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 15, 2021

The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Proper 15

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

Concerto in D Minor, BWV 596
i. Andante/Grave, ii. Fuga, iii. Largo e spiccato

J.S. Bach, after Vivaldi

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Dayna McCrary

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: Give thanks to God!

P: We thank God for joy, for laughter, for abundant blessings of every kind.

L: Give thanks to God at all times and for everything!

P: We thank God, when we can and as we can, for struggles, for solitude, for challenges.

L: Give thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

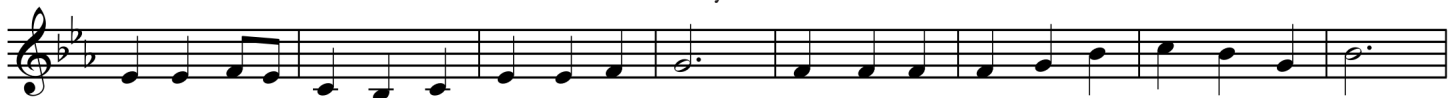
P: We thank God that, in Christ, our joys as well as our pain, our losses as well as our laughter, are in God's heart and hands.

—Thom Shuman, based on Ephesians 5:20, alt.

* OPENING HYMN 339

Be thou my vision

Slane



1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
2. Rich-es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise, Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word; I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;



Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart, Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall, Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, you have given your Incarnate One to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of Jesus' redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of that most holy life; this we pray in the name of the Trinity, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

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 – Blessing of the Backpacks

Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 2:10–12; 3:3–14 (O.T., p. 304)

Mrs. McCrary

A reading from the first book of Kings, chapter 2.

Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians, chapter 5.

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL HYMN

Breathe on me, breath of God

Nova Vita

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will, to do or to en - dure.
 till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

THE GOSPEL

John 6:51–58 (N.T., p. 98)

Rev. Corzine

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

Jesus said, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Learning, Leading, and Living, with your Legacy in Mind!”

The Rev. Dr. Jefferey P. Kee
Senior Pastor, New Faith Baptist Church in Christ

A time of reflection follows.

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

*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. Corzine

Designated gifts go to **Lutheran Social Services Choices for Victims of Domestic Violence**. Domestic violence is a terrible and increasingly pervasive problem that tears apart families and communities. Victims and their children who are living with an abuser need a safe place to go to break the cycle of violence and begin the healing process. LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence has been the sole resource for victims seeking shelter in Franklin County for more than four decades. Thank you for your generosity.

SOLO

Let us break bread together
Emily Noël, *soloist*

arr. John Carter

* 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. Samuelson

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.

1. O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2. The church from you, dear Sav - ior, Re - ceived this gift di - vine,
 3. O make your church, dear Sav - ior, A lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 And still that light is lift - ed On all the earth to shine.
 To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light, as of old;

We praise you for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims By this our path to trace,

A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
 A - mid the rocks and quick - sands, Still guides, O Christ, to you.
 Till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, We see you face to face.

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. Dr. Jefferey P. Kee, Senior Pastor at New Faith Baptist Church of Christ, to the First Church pulpit this morning. Welcome, Dr. Kee!

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Charlie Weaver in honor of Mary Weaver's birthday.

† GREETING AFTER THE SERVICE TODAY

Rev. Kee and Rev. Corzine – On the West lawn

Mr. Williams – On the East Breezeway patio (accessible via the Education Wing or the elevator)

Rev. Samuelson – Near the Children's Playground (accessible via the Education Wing)

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Dr. Jefferey P. Kee, *preacher*

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *liturgist*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *liturgist*

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Dayna McCrary, *liturgist*

Emily Noël, *soloist*

Kevin Jones, *organist*

Peter Murray, Mike Kennedy, and Janet Newcity, *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

August 15, 2021

This Week at First Church

8/15

- 9 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee Hour (Virtual)
- 11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12 Noon Coffee Hour (Virtual)
- 12:30 p.m. BREAD Team Meeting (Virtual)

8/16

- 7 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg

8/17

- 7 p.m. Church Council Mtg

8/18

- 10 a.m. Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery
- 10:30 a.m. Book Study
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal

Blessing
of the
Backpacks



Today, We will dedicate the Gladden House backpacks and give a blessing for all our children and teachers going back to school.

New Mask Recommendations

The latest CDC guidance states due to substantial COVID-19 community spread, the CDC strongly recommends masks for everyone in indoor settings and crowded areas. Franklin County Public Health and Columbus Public Health also support these efforts to keep people safe.

You will see church staff and deacons wearing masks. **We request that all of you do the same.** If you forget a mask, we will have some available as you enter. Together as a community of faith we need to do everything we can to protect our children (who are not yet eligible for vaccination) and the immunocompromised among us.

Additional 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 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.

Backpack Project Update

We have wonderful news! The Faith Formation and Justice and Mercy Commissions held a fundraiser for backpacks and school supplies for Gladden Community House and for the children and youth of First Church. The giving for this project from the congregation was amazing and will allow us to give 100 backpacks to Gladden Community House and 100 backpacks to the children and youth of First Church.

On **Sunday, August 22**, we will distribute backpacks to the First Church children and youth at 10 a.m. and after the 11 a.m. service in the Education Wing. They will be divided into the following grade levels:

Grade 6-12 kits - 30
Grade 1-5 kits - 43
Kindergarten kits -27

Each backpack will have the necessary school supplies.

If you are unable to attend that day, please contact me directly at mwilliams@first-church.org and we can work out a pickup time.

Blessings,
Mark Williams
Director of Christian Education

A Note About Communion Elements

First Church utilizes biodegradable and recyclable cups for our Communion bread and juice.

A Late Summer Read

The Faith Formation Commission of First 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.

Realm Update

As you have heard, First Church now uses the new on-line record-keeping system called Realm. If you have already logged into Realm, thank you!

On Wednesday, August 11, if you had not yet taken the opportunity to log into Realm, you should have received a second invitation email asking you to log into Realm and update your secure member profile. You will be able to make sure your contact information (phone, address, email) is accurate.

If you did not receive an invitation, or if you have questions or need assistance, please email either Amy Wagner at awagner@first-church.org or Annette McCormick at amccormick@first-church.org. The Realm team is planning training sessions for interested users and Council and Commissioners – please wait for more detailed information.



Virtual Coffee Hour

9 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526?pwd=L-014R1dIdmE4UzIUNdlnZkZ4ZURldz09>

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.

Rev. Corzine holds office hours on Thursdays; email her for a time to meet at ecorzine@first-church.org

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 Twink Starr; Graham Bukach, son of Michael and Caitlin Bukach, grandson of Scott and Margaret Clark Graham; Martha Huey; Tom and Shelly Gies; Donice Wooster; Leigh Briggs; Wayne Redenbarger; 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 Rev. Joanna Samuelson's husband, Shane Gillies; Lynn Wallich's friend Chad Raymond; Rev. Tim Ahrens' cousin, Sunny Cox; Rev. Dan Clark's father, Steve Clark; Victor John's parents, Charles and Mary Jane John; Steven Ferris' friends Michelle Blackman, Bob Harding and Dan Schleppe's mother, Nancy Schleppe; Tim Ahrens' friend, Keegan; Mark Williams' cousin, Tom Norris; Kathy Reed's friend, JD Mace; Ryan Jones' mother, Sue Jones; Carol Bensing's friend, Donna Doone; 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; and Helen Spears and niece, Sandra Hall.

Those who mourn loved ones The family of Natalie Wright; the Strasser family on the death of Millie Strasser; Sheri and Bob Moreen on the death of Sheri's brother, Scott VanCleaf; Pam Kallner and niece, Lisa Malling and family on the death Lisa's son, Dylan Malling; friends of Rev. Corzine, the Stout family on the death of David Stout; Sarah Lange on the death of her sister, Rev. Amy Smith; Catherine Hope Cunningham on the death of cousins Brian Hope and Elaine Allison.

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 Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. We pray for Global Ministries co-worker Abigail Fate in Mexico.

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.



Designated gifts go to **Lutheran Social Services Choices for Victims of Domestic Violence**. Domestic violence is a terrible and increasingly pervasive problem that tears apart families and communities. Victims and their children who are living with an abuser need a safe place to go to break the cycle of violence and begin the healing process. LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence has been the sole resource for victims seeking shelter in Franklin County for more than four decades. Thank you for your generosity.

Learn more about the mission by visiting <https://lssnetworkofhope.org/choices/>

Upcoming Mission Offerings

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
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
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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