



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 16, 2020

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 15

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 Passacaglia David Hurd

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: Each one of us here is different.

P: We are unique individuals.

L: We come from various backgrounds.

P: We come with differing needs and dreams.

L: Yet the Lord calls us to worship in unity.

P: Praise be to God who blesses our diversity and our unity. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Old Hundredth

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing out your faith with cheer - ful voice; de -
 2. Know that there is one God, in - deed, who fash - ions us with - out our aid, who
 3. En - ter the sa - cred gates with praise; with joy ap - proach the tem - ple walls. Ex -
 4. Pro - claim a - gain that God is good, whose mer - cy is for - ev - er sure, whose

light in God whose praise you tell, whose pres - ence calls you to re - joice.
 claims us, gives us all we need, whose ten - der care will nev - er fade.
 tol and bless our God al - ways as peo - ple whom the Spir - it calls.
 truth at all times firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

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.

* 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 45:1–15

Fran Panek

A reading from the book of Genesis, chapter 45.

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 11.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 15.

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

“Use the VOTE Intelligently, Conscientiously, and Prayerfully”

Part four of the Seven-part Sermon Series:

“For Such a Time As This: Seven Lessons for Living Through Pandemic Times”

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

Rev. Corzine

Cash and designated checks 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.

VOLUNTARY

Our Father, Who Art in Heaven, BWV 683

Bach

* PRESENTATION HYMN

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

Rev. Corzine

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

O God of Every Nation

Llangloffan

1. O God of ev - ery na - tion, Of ev - ery race and land,
 2. From search for wealth and pow - er And scorn of truth and right,
 3. Lord, strength - en those who la - bor That all may find re - lease
 4. Keep bright in us the vi - sion Of days when war shall cease,

Re - deem the whole cre - a - tion With your al - might - y hand;
 From trust in bombs that show - er De - struc - tion through the night,
 From fear of rat - tling sa - ber, From dread of war's in - crease;
 When ha - tred and di - vi - sion Give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us And bit - ter threats are hurled,
 From pride of race and sta - tion And blind - ness to your way,
 When hope and cour - age fal - ter, Your still small voice be heard;
 Till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious When peace on earth shall reign

In love and mer - cy guide us And heal our strife - torn world.
 De - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, E - ter - nal God, we pray.
 With faith that none can al - ter, Your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 And Christ shall rule vic - to - rious O'er all the world's do - main.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Fantasia in G Minor, BWV 542

J.S. Bach

*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

August 16, 2020

This Week at First Church

8/16

9 a.m. Worship
 9:45 a.m. Zoom Chat
 10 a.m. Confirmation 2021 Conversation
 11 a.m. Worship
 Noon Virtual Coffee Hour
 6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering

8/17

10 a.m. 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge
 6 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg
 7 p.m. 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge

8/18

7 p.m. Church Council Mtg

8/19

9:30 a.m. The Largest Table Food Prep
 10:30 a.m. Book Study
 2:30 p.m. Live Stream Task Force Mtg
 5:30 p.m. Seeing the Racial Water -
 A Conversation with
 Robin DiAngelo

Free Event

THE EDGE SISTERS is hosting a free virtual event with Dr. Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*, in collaboration with the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

Seeing the Racial Water – A Conversation with Robin DiAngelo
 Wednesday August 19, 5:30–7:00 p.m.

More information about THE EDGE SISTERS, this event, and Registration:
<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/robindiangelo/register>

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 next date for the discussion is:
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=IwAR14DWYP7qKFg7j5aokIXhfBeQhy21pV-kbvFS8HIOccZm-JgQbY_bVAIk

Join Zoom Meeting 10:00 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88054839264?pwd=WFE3Nm9EdXgrbmNxVW1adHFuWVd6QT09>

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 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 – “Live In and Out of Murky Waters”

August 30 – “Give Yourself Permission”

September 6 – “Remember, Restore, Renew”

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=L014R1dIdmE4U-
zlUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526?pwd=L014R1dIdmE4U-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

As the November 3, 2020 election quickly approaches, visit the Ohio Secretary of State at <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-ballot/> There you will find information on voter registration, update your voting information, request an absentee ballot, any any other questions about voting in Ohio. You must register or update your voter registration no later than 30 days prior to an election.

Don't miss your chance to make voice heard!

Keep in Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens on his upcoming surgery; Rob and Marti Rideout; Kelly Dodd; Betsy Zahn; Dana Navin Schultz; Lindy Miller; and Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz; Reid Bender, friend of Jen Provenzano; Talia Cook, granddaughter of Frank and Sue Cook; Jeffery Collins, father of Will Zimmerman's girlfriend, Kalee Collins; Brent Hatch, father of Annie West's partner Evin Hatch; Dwight and Elaine Holt, parents of David Holt; Susan Gattton, 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; and Amy Smith, sister of Sarah Lange; Calvin Roth, father of Julie Roth.

Those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Shannon Washington and her mother, Lorraine Dodds, on the death of her father, Christopher.

Emergency Pastoral Care Line

If you need to be in touch with Rev. Ahrens or Rev. Corzine 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.

Dr. Will Fernald's will celebrate his 97th birthday on Aug. 16. Help him celebrate his special day by sending a card or note!

His address is :
Dr. Will Fernald
Bickford of Bexley, Room 205
2600 E. Main St.
Bexley, Ohio 43209

Thanks be to God for Dr. Will Fernald!

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 Annette McCormick at amccormick@first-church.org or Rev. Emily Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org.

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August Mission Offerings

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

Business Administrator Annette McCormick

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 Brian Cave **Trustees** Allen Baker, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn, Kevin Cubick, Christine Farquar, 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** Lauren Muscott; **Justice & Mercy-elect** Kaye Martin; **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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