



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

August 26, 2018 The Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Proper 16

**WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!**

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 165 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 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 *Fantaisie* in C Major, Op. 16 César Franck

ENTER TO WORSHIP Jenny Provenzano

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: How wonderful it is to be in a dwelling place for God!

**P: The refreshing springs of God's love cleans and restore us.**

L: There is a place here for everyone. No one is turned away.

**P: The least and the lost;**

**the homeless and hopeless are always welcome in God's house.**

L: Praise to God who invites and shelters us all.

**P: Praise to God who heals and sends us forth to serve. Amen.**

\* OPENING HYMN 263 Immortal, invisible, God only wise *St. Denio*

\* INVOCATION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

**P. And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: Grant to us, O God, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

\* SONG OF PRAISE 229 From all that dwell below the skies *Lasst uns erfreuen*

**Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;**

**Eternal truth attends Thy word: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,**

**Till suns shall rise and set no more. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

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.

*Please find the attendance pad at the end of the pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor.*

CHILDREN'S TIME "Blessing of the Backpacks" Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 50:4-10 (O.T., p. 681) Mrs. Provenzano

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 6:10-20 (N.T., p. 195) Mrs. Provenzano

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN 329 Break Thou the bread of life *Bread of Life*

*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 sermon. 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 John 6:56-69 (N.T., p. 98) Rev. Ahrens

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Fulfilled in Your Hearing" The Rev. Dr. J. Bennett Guess

*Part five of the six-part sermon series, "The New Social Gospel"*

*A time of reflection follows.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Corzine

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

*Want to give online? Please see the Depart to Serve leaflet for more information and a QR link.*

MISSION INVITATION Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated checks go to **ACLU Ohio Foundation**. The Mission of the ACLU of Ohio Foundation is to aid in maintaining and extending constitutional and other fundamental rights, liberties, privileges, and immunities, and to take all legitimate actions in furtherance of that object without political partisanship. Today's offering will support voting rights. Voting is the corner stone of our democracy and fundamental right upon which our civil liberties rest. The ACLU Ohio Foundation works to protect and expand Americans' freedom to vote. The Foundation supports the effort to promote access, fight voter suppression, support voter registration and current issues of gerrymandering. Please give generously.

VOLUNTARY *Moderato* (Fantaisie in E-flat Major)

Camille Saint-Saëns

\* PRESENTATION HYMN 591 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. Corzine

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* CLOSING HYMN 260 A mighty fortress is our God *Ein feste Burg*

\* BENEDICTION Rev. Guess

POSTLUDE *Allegro molto* (Fantaisie in E-flat Major) Saint-Saëns

*Please be seated for the postlude*

*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. Please join us in the Parish Hall for Fellowship Hour.*

WE WELCOME MARK S. WILLIAMS back to First Church upon the completion of his sabbatical leave. Welcome, Mark!

WE WELCOME GUEST PREACHER THE REV. DR. J. BENNETT GUESS to worship this morning and thank him for his presence, message, and ministry. Rev. Guess, the new Executive Director of the ACLU of Ohio, is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. For 17 years, he was in executive and senior-staff roles with the national headquarters of the United Church of Christ, based in Cleveland. He has been deeply involved in the UCC's advocacy for racial, social, gender, and economic justice.

ACOLYTES: Matty Provenzano and Ruby Holt

MUSIC: Robert Wisniewski, *guest organist*

We thank Robert Wisniewski for serving as guest organist for several Sundays during Kevin Jones' absence for the Choir Tour and vacation.

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given by Mark and Melanie Brown to the glory of God and in celebration of the birth of their grandson, Paul to parents Emily and Ben.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY

Rev. Ahrens & Rev. Guess – Broad Street

Rev. Corzine – Ninth Street

Mr. Williams – Christian Education wing

## 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.

## Our Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, believe the following represents our commitment and desire to reach out and welcome all those in need of and searching for God's love: We believe that we are all created in God's image, female and male, and we are called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, and called to unite all people in God's love. We welcome and affirm all people. We invite those who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join us on our common journey. Our faith community seeks to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, mental and physical abilities, socioeconomic levels and political and theological 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)

