



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 1, 2019

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 17

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 Fugue Arthur Honegger

ENTER TO WORSHIP Todd Jacobson

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: Sing aloud to God our strength!

P: Sing the story of our faith.

L: Sing of God's providential care:

P: water in the desert, honey from a rock.

L: Sing of God's sorrow at our wandering!

P: Sing of God's love that calls us anew.

L: Sing aloud to God our strength!

* OPENING HYMN 343 Called as Partners in Christ's Service
 sung to *Hyfrydol*

* INVOCATION The Rev. Dr. Marti Baumer

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: God of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* 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 in the Welcome Notebook at the end of each pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor.

CHILDREN'S TIME Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Sirach 10:12-18 Mr. Jacobson

THE EPISTLE Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 (N.T. p. 227) Mr. Jacobson

* GOSPEL HYMN Where Charity and Love Prevail McKee

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.

1. Wherechar - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2. With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear true char - i - ty we learn;
 3. For - give we now each oth - er's faults as we our faults con - fess;
 4. Let strife a-mong us be un-known, let all con - ten - tion cease;

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
 let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in re - turn.
 and let us love each oth - er well in Chris-tian ho - li - ness.
 be Christ the glo - ry that we seek, be ours. His ho - ly peace.

THE GOSPEL Luke 14:1, 7-14 (N.T. p. 77) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION "Reparations" Rev. Ahrens

Last of the six-part sermon series, "400 Years of Africans in America."

A time of reflection follows.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Baumer

(Today, the Lord's Prayer will be prayed as part of the Communion liturgy.)

THE OFFERTORY

MISSION INVITATION Barbara Clapham

Cash and designated checks go to **Laundry Love**. The children and youth of First Church invite you to join them in this continuing yearlong mission project. Laundry Love is an initiative in partnership with individuals, groups, and local laundromats throughout the country to wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and/or families living in poverty. Thank you for your generosity.

INSTRUMENTAL *Allegro non troppo* Ignaz Pleyel

Brianna Burkett, *flutist*

* PRESENTATION HYMN 428 We Give Thee but Thine Own, *stanza 1*

Schumann

**We give Thee but Thine own,
 Whate'er the gift may be;
 All that we have is Thine alone,
 A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. (Wheat-free rice flour bread is available on the trays, cut into circles.) Cups with the purple ribbon around them are filled with wine.

* INVITATION

* SURSUM CORDA

Leader The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.
Leader Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.
Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* COMMUNION PRAYER

* SANCTUS

Richard Proulx

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
 san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
 Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
 san-na in the high-est, Ho-
 san-na in the high-est.

The congregation may be seated.

L: ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

P: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

L: ...Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

P: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

L: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

P: 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.

L: ...Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

P: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Please remain seated for the Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Notices.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Baumer

L: Let us pray.

All: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN 563

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Minuet

J.S. Bach

Please be seated for the Postlude.

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. Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.

† ACOLYTES: Carmen Axt and Maya Haslett

† MUSIC: Brianna Burkett, *flutist*; G. Dene Barnard, *organist/choirmaster emeritus*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gary David Thomas, by Allison Lowery Palmer, Alex Thomas, and Alex and Alyssia Palmer.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens

Ninth Street – Rev. Baumer

Education Wing – Mr. Williams

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.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885
 PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741
 WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG

Bulletins are printed on recycled paper with a minimum 50% post-consumer content. All music in the bulletin is reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717661. All rights reserved. Bulletins and audio podcasts of services are available on the website for each week: www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx