



HOLY COMMUNION AT ELEVEN  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 2, 2018 The Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Proper 17

**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 Saraband Land of Rest Gerald Near

ENTER TO WORSHIP Janet Newcity

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: Summer wanes and the autumn draws close.

**P: Lord, help us to be ready for opportunities of service.**

L: We have felt the refreshment of time-away.

**P: Lord, give us spirits of joy for the times ahead.**

L: Come, let us celebrate God's eternal presence and love.

**P: Let us open our spirits to receive God's direction for our lives.**

**Amen.**

\* OPENING HYMN 464 Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee *Hymn to Joy*

\* INVOCATION Anthony Brown, M.Div.

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.**

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us confess our sin against God and each other.

**PEOPLE**

**Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others, and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

*A time of silence follows.*

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Almighty God has forgiven you all your sins and has promised to bring you to everlasting life.

**PEOPLE**

**Amen.**

**Almighty God has forgiven you all your sins and has promised to bring you to everlasting life.**

L: Amen.

\* WELCOME AND 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 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 Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Song of Solomon 2:8–13 (O.T., p. 623)

Ms. Newcity

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE James 1:17–27 (N.T., p. 229) Ms. Newcity

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN 347 Forgive our sins as we forgive *Detroit*

*During the hymn, children, Kindergarten through Second Grade, are invited to the 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 Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23 (N.T., p. 42) Rev. Ahrens

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION "A New Social Gospel" Rev. Ahrens

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

*A time of reflection follows.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Mr. Brown

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

THE OFFERTORY

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

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Immokalee Workers**. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in the fields of social responsibility, human trafficking, and gender-based violence at work. Built on a foundation of farmworker community organizing starting in 1993, and reinforced with the creation of a national consumer network since 2000, CIW's work has steadily grown over more than twenty years to encompass three broad and overlapping spheres: Fair Food Program, Anti-Slavery Campaign and Campaign for Fair Food. Most recently the CIW work has brought them to Dublin, Ohio to the Wendy's International Headquarters demanding that Wendy's sign the Campaign for Fair Food. Please give generously.

VOLUNTARY Chorale-Prelude on Forest Green Richard Purvis

\* PRESENTATION HYMN 591 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow *Old Hundredth*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
 Praise Christ, all people here below;  
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
 Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

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 Plainsong

Leader People  
 The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
 Leader People  
 Lift up your hearts. 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

William Mathias

organ

Ho - ly, Ho - ly,  
 Ho - ly Lord. God of power and might, Heav'n and earth are  
 organ  
 full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
 organ  
 Lord. 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.**

*(The Communion Prayer continues)*

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.**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

HYMN 503 Come risen Lord *Sursum corda*

*Please remain seated for the Prayer of Thanksgiving*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mr. Brown

L: Let us pray.

**All: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* CLOSING HYMN 341 Blessed Assurance *Blessed Assurance*

\* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE Fanfare for the Common Man Aaron Copland  
*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 nametag. We'd be delighted to assist you.*

WE WELCOME ORGANIST ROBERT DELCAMP to worship this morning. Dr. Delcamp will be serving as minister of music while Kevin Jones is on sabbatical. Dr. Robert Delcamp is a retired Professor of Music, University Organist and Choirmaster, and Chair of the Music Department at The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He was organist of All Saints' Chapel on the university campus, where he also directed the chapel choir. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, he was a pupil of Wayne Fisher at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, where he earned Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in organ performance. He later earned the D.Mus. degree from Northwestern University. He continued his study in France with Louis Robilliard, Organiste Titulaire at the Church of Saint François de Sales in Lyon. As a concert artist, Dr. Delcamp has toured extensively throughout the United States. Welcome, Robbe!

WE THANK ANTHONY BROWN, M. DIV. for assisting in worship leadership this morning.

ACOLYTES: Alyssia Palmer and Sebyy Kulwicki

MUSIC: Robert Delcamp, *organist*

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given by Frank & Sue Cook to the glory of God and in loving dedication to their children: Elizabeth, Foz, Frank, Stephanie; and grandchildren: Alice, Talia.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street – Rev. Ahrens  
Ninth Street – Mr. Brown  
Education Wing – Mr. Williams

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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)

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