



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 9, 2018 The Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Proper 18

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 Cortège and Litany Marcel Dupré

ENTER TO WORSHIP The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens
 The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: We are part of the church universal - faithful people of every color, gender, class, sexual orientation, age and ability, gathered to love and serve God.

P: We are an Open and Affirming Church rejoicing in the good news which we celebrate this day, our 16th anniversary of ONA!

L: There is a place in God's heart.

P: There is a place at Christ's table.

L: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

P: Christ who gathers us, bids us follow in the ways of love and justice.

L: May our hearts be open to Christ's leading in our worship and in our living.

P: Together, let us worship God.

(from the book, Call to Worship by Ann B. Day, USA)

* All stand.

L: Alleluia! Praise God, O my soul! Melody Leidheiser
 Psalm 146

**P: I will praise God as long as I live;
 I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

L: Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, for there is no help in them.

P: When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

L: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in their God.

P: Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

whose promise abides for ever;

L: Who gives justice to those who are oppressed and food to those who hunger.

P: God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind;

L: God lifts up those who are bowed down;

P: God loves the righteous and cares for the stranger;

L: God sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

P: God shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 461 God is here Abbot's Leigh

* INVOCATION Rev. Corzine

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Grant us, O God, to trust in you with all our heart; for as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast in your mercy; 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 Shine forth, O Light Ellacombe

Washington Gladden, 1897



* 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 Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 (O.T., p. 604)

Mrs. Leidheiser

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Loving shepherd of thy sheep John Rutter

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, Loving Shepherd, ever near.
 Keep thy lamb, in safety keep. Teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
 Nothing can they power withstand. Suffer not my steps to stray,
 None can pluck me from thy hand. From the straight and narrow way.

I would bless thee every day, Where thou ledest I would go,
 Gladly all thy will obey. Walking in thy steps below,
 Like thy blessed ones above, Till before my Father's throne.
 Happy in thy perfect love. I shall know as I am known.
 —John Rutter

THE EPISTLE James 2:1-10, 14-17 (N.T., p. 228) Mrs. Leidheiser

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 367 Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love Chereponi

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 Mark 7:24-37 (N.T., p. 42) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Jesus is Open and Affirming" Rev. Ahrens

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 Antoinette Beynen

Today's cash and designated checks go to the **First Church Refugee Resettlement Fund**. First Church has made a commitment to sponsor a refugee family. Refugees come here with literally the shirts on their backs, fleeing atrocities in their home country. We are waiting for our family to be assigned to us. but there is much to do to get ready to settle them in their new home in Columbus. Your gifts will provide for basic living expenses, i.e., shelter, food, clothing and any specific needs of our family. Please give generously.

ANTHEM Make a joyful noise unto the Lord William Mathias
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we
are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto
him, and bless his name.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.
—Psalm 100

* 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 466 O for a thousand tongues to sing *Azmon*

* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE Grand Chorus in G minor Alexandre Guilmant
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 THE FIRST CHURCH CHOIR AND THE CRUCIFERS this morning as they return to regular participation in the 11 a.m. service.

ACOLYTES: AnnaSofia Severson & Ethan Murray

CRUCIFER: Erin Murray BANNER CARRIER: Eddie Anderson IV

MUSIC: The First Church Choir; Robert Delcamp, *organist and director*

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given by Pat Patterson to the glory of God and in celebration of our Congregational Care members. May their service be blessed. THE WHITE ROSE is in celebration of the life of Wally Giffen who died September 4. The memorial service will be Saturday, September 15 at 1 p.m.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Rev. Corzine – Ninth Street

Mr. Williams – Christian Education wing

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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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