



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 30, 2018 The Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Proper 21

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 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)*

A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER WITH HOLY BAPTISM

PRELUDE Suite on the First Tone Denis Bédard
Plein Jeu - Dialogue - Récit

OPENING SENTENCES The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine
 Leader: This is the day which God has made. Alleluia!
People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

**Indicates those who are able may stand.*

* PRECES Herbert Sumsion
Precentor O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
Precentor O God, make speed to save us.
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.
Precentor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Precentor Praise ye the Lord.
Choir The Lord's name be praised.

* OPENING HYMN 214 O come and sing unto the Lord *Irish*

Please be seated as the Choir sings the psalm appointed for this day.

PSALM 124 chant: Thomas Tallis
 1 If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let Israel now say—
 2 if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,
 3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;
 4 then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;
 5 then over us would have gone the raging waters.
 6 Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.
 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
 8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Please stand.

* 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 Mark S. Williams

BAPTISM HYMN 498 Child of blessing, child of promise (*stanzas 1–2*)
Kingdom

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR
 ABEL MAVERICK LOGEL

*We welcome Abel, parents Daniel & Brittanie, godparents Lina & Ben Taylor and Chris & Nancy Logel(in absentia)and Senior Deacon Janet Newcity. Members and friends are invited to write a prayer and greeting to Abel on the baptismal card found in the pew pads. Please write Abel's name at the top, and today's date on the bottom of the card.
 Please place the card in the offering plate at the time of the Offertory.*

WELCOME
 Leader: . . . But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,
People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

ADDRESS
 L: . . . the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of her growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.
P: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE
 * CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT
The congregation is invited to stand.
 L: . . . Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as Charlotte lives and grows in Christ?
P: We promise our love, support, and care.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
 L: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.
 Do you believe in God?
P: I believe in God.
 L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
P: I believe in Jesus Christ.
 L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
P: I believe in the Holy Spirit.
The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM
 L: Christ be with you.
P: And also with you.
 L: Let us pray.

ACT OF BAPTISM

NAMING OF THE CHILD
 L: Abel Maverick Logel, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Rise from the waters of baptism and give glory to God all the days of your life.
P: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED
 L: Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this newest member of the body of Christ.
P: Give to Abel strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

BAPTISM HYMN 498 Child of blessing, child of promise (*stanzas 3–4*)
Kingdom

THE FIRST READING Esther 7:1–6, 9–10 (O.T., p. 448) Sue Cook
 L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
P: Thanks be to God.

* CANTICLE: A SONG OF CREATION *Whitehead*
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 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 SECOND READING Mark 9:38–50 (N.T., p. 45) Mrs. Cook
 L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
P: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: JUBILATE DEO IN C (*sung by the choir*) Benjamin Britten

BAPTISMAL MEDITATION "Prayers That Save" Rev. Ahrens
A time of reflection follows.

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: That there may be purpose and fulfillment, O God, in all that we do,

P: *sung, each time*



L: That we may show others this day the love that you have taught us,

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: That the church throughout the world may respond to your call for peace and justice,

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: That those who are in need be helped and comforted,

P: Christ, have mercy.

(We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, the members, family, and friends who are listed in the Depart to Serve leaflet and whom we hold in our hearts in prayer. As directed, you are invited to pray silently or aloud for those needs and concerns you have.)

L: That we may be strengthened by your grace for the tasks of this day,

P: Christ, have mercy.

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, in Christ you have embraced all of life through the one who is the way, the truth, and the life. Pour out your grace upon us that we may love all of life as you have loved us. **Amen.**

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 **Church World Service - Hurricane Florence Relief.** Your donations will allow Church World Service to respond quickly by providing food, temporary shelter, and clean water to the Carolinas following HURRICANE FLORENCE. Please give generously. Thank you.

ANTHEM Pilgrims' Hymn

Stephen Paulus

Even before we call on Your name to ask You, O God,
When we seek for the words to glorify You, You hear our prayer;
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,
Surpassing all we know.
Glory to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.

Even with darkness sealing us in,
We breathe Your name,
And through all the days that follow so fast,
We trust in You;
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace,
Beyond all mortal dream.
Both now and for ever,
And unto ages and ages. Amen.
—Michael Dennis Browne

* 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. Ahrens

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE Mr. Williams
L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN 339 Be Thou my vision *Slane*

* BENEDICTION Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE Suite on the First Tone Bédard
Grand Jeu

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.

ACOLYTES: Ruby Holt and Ethan Murray

CRUCIFER: Erin Murray

MUSIC: The First Church Choir, Robert Delcamp, *organist*
Jim Gallagher, *director*

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given by Melva Fisher to the glory of God and in honor of the staff of First Church in thanks for their ministry to us.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY
Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street
Rev. Corzine – Ninth Street
Mr. Williams – Christian Education wing

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Bulletins and audio podcasts of services are available on the website for each week:
www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx

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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