



HOLY COMMUNION AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 7, 2018 Worldwide Communion Sunday Proper 22

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)*

PRELUDE Song of Peace Jean Langlais

INTROIT Prayer of King Henry VI Henry Ley
Domine, Jesu Christe, qui me creasti, redemisti, et preordinasti ad hoc quod sum; tu scis quæ de me facere vis; fac de me secundum voluntatem tuam cum misericordia. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who hast created and redeemed me and hast foreordained me unto that which now I am; thou knowest what thou wouldst do with me; do with me according to thy will, in thy mercy. Amen.

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: In the midst of struggle and strife, God is with us.

P: Praise be to God for God's steadfast presence.

L: Even though many things in life hurt and disappoint us, God is with us.

P: We seek God's mercy and grace to heal our wounded souls.

L: Come, bring your needs and wants to God,

for God will hear your cries and restore your souls.

P: Praise be to God for mercy, peace, and hope. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN 442 The Church's One Foundation Aurelia

* INVOCATION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of 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: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything becomes new. That we may put behind us all that is past, let us confess our sin to almighty God.

P: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

L: Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

A time of silence follows.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

P: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. 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 Job 1:1, 2:1–10 (O.T., p. 453) Ms. Newcity

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12 (N.T., p. 218) Ms. Newcity

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 76 My song is love unknown *Love Unknown*
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 10:2–16 (N.T., p. 46) Rev. Ahrens

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

P: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION "The Asundered" Rev. Ahrens

A time of reflection follows.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Corzine

(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 Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated checks go to **Neighbors in Need**. Neighbors In Need expresses the United Church of Christ's commitment to ministries of justice and compassion in the United States and Puerto Rico, as we speak prophetically to those in power and advocate for the voiceless. In the spirit of Christ, we seek to confront evil in the world and to alleviate suffering through justice advocacy and direct service. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM Draw us in the spirit's tether Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; For when humbly, in thy name, Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them: Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem. As the brethren used to gather In the name of Christ to sup, Then with thanks to God the Father Break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living Make as sacraments of thee, That by caring, helping, giving, We may true disciples be. Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.

–Percy Dearmer

* PRESENTATION HYMN Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Lasst uns erfreuen

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

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

