



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 25, 2018

The Reign of Christ

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 All Glory be to God on High, BWV 664 J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP Lynn Wallich

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: With thankful hearts we pause this day to be reminded of our grandest hope:

P: that the calamities, the demands, even the blessings of this world do not have the last word.

L: You are the one who was and is, and who is yet to come—
 a ruler of a different kind.

**P: Open our hearts to the comfort, the challenge,
 and the mystery of this good news.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 151 Crown him with many crowns *Diademata*

* INVOCATION The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in Jesus Christ, the One who reigns in majesty: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under Christ's most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* SONG OF PRAISE Glory to God in the highest William Mathias

organ

 Glo-ry to God in the high est, and peace to God's peo-ple on

earth. Ho - ly One, heav-en-ly God, sov'-reign God and Cre - a - tor, we wor-ship you, we

mp

 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, God's on - ly be-

got - ten one, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

p organ

 on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of Ma - jes - ty: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Mes - si - ah,

you a lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of the

ff

 Tri - une God. A - - - - men.

* 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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE 2 Samuel 23:1-7 (O.T., p. 299) Dr. Wallich

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM The Last Words of David Randall Thompson

He that ruleth over all must be just, ruling in the fear of God.
 And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning
 without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.
 —2 Samuel 23: 3-4

THE REVELATION TO JOHN 1:4b-8 (N.T., p. 245)

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

P: Thanks be to God.

Dr. Wallich

* GOSPEL HYMN 145 Rejoice ye pure in heart *Marion*

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 John 18:33-37 (N.T., p. 113)

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

P: Thanks be to God.

Rev. Ahrens

SERMON "The Reason I Was Born Was to Testify to the Truth"

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

Trevor Martin

Cash and designated checks go to **Mid-Ohio Workers Association** whose mission has been to create a self-help organization to address day-to-day critical survival needs while building long-term solutions to poverty conditions. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM Let this mind be in you Lee Hoiby

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 —Philippians 2:5-11

* 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 416 Christ is made the sure foundation
Westminster Abbey

* BENEDICTION Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE Alleluyas Simon Preston
*At his feet the six-winged Seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Lord most high.
—Liturgy of St. James*

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: Grace Glaros and Lincoln Glaros

CRUCIFER: Peter Spofforth

MUSIC: The First Church Choir, Kevin Jones, *organist and director*

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given by Kathy & Tom Brownfield to the glory of God and in memory of their mothers, Lillian Brownfield and Laura Barndt.

GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Rev. Corzine – Ninth Street

Mr. Williams – Christian Education wing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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