



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 20, 2022

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 169 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.*

The liturgy of Morning Prayer is a form of daily worship adapted through the ages that has its earliest roots in our Jewish heritage. Its premise is one of praying to God at the beginning of the day—giving thanks for another day ahead. The service falls roughly into three main parts: Opening sentences and singing/reading of the Psalms; readings from Holy Scripture - usually one from the Hebrew texts, and one from the Gospels - interspersed with ancient songs of the church; and prayers. To this we add Holy Communion, bringing further meaning to the totality of the prayers we have already offered. The liturgy presupposes full and hearty congregational involvement in the spoken and sung responses, preparing us to be sent forth from this house of worship into the wider world to live out the Great Commission.

PRELUDE

Kevin Jones, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, the life and light of humanity.

People: Great is God's love for us. Alleluia!

Please stand as you are able

(indicates Congregation standing)*

* THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

L: O God, open our lips.

P: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

L: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

* OPENING SONG

I sing as I arise today

Seed of Life



1. I sing as I a - rise to - day! I call on my Cre - a - tor's might:
 2. The word of God to be my speech, The hand of God to be my stay,
 3. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



The will of God to be my guide, The eye of God to be my sight.
 The shield of God to be my strength, The path of God to be my way.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

P: For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.

L: Put your trust in God and do good; dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

P: Take delight in God, who shall give you your heart's desire.

L: Commit your way to God and put your trust in God, who will bring it to pass.

P: God will make your righteousness as clear as the light and your just dealing as the noonday.

L: Be still before God; for God wait patiently.

P: Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

L: Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not fret yourself, it leads only to evil.

P: For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait upon God shall possess the land.

L: In a little while the wicked shall be no more; you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

P: But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

L: But the deliverance of the righteous comes from God who is their stronghold in time of trouble.

P: God will help them and rescue them; the Holy One will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because they seek refuge in God.

L: Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:

P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mark S. Williams

Please be seated for the readings.

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3–11, 15

Kevin Jones

A reading from the book of Genesis, chapter 45.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

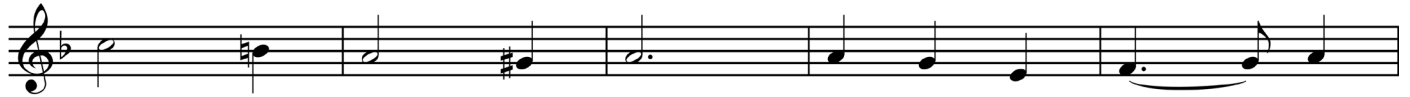
L: May light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

Today we sing stanzas 1 and 4.



1. A - rise, shine out, your light has come, un - fold - ing
 2. A - bove earth's val - leys, thick with night, high on your
 3. From walls sur - pass - ing time and space un - num - bered
 4. The sounds of vi - o - lence shall cease as dwell - ings
 5. The danc - ing air shall glow with light, and sun and



ci - ty of our dreams. On dis - tant hills a
 walls the dawn ap - pears, and his - to - ry shall
 gates, like o - pen hands, shall gath - er gifts from
 of sal - va - tion rise to spar - kle in e -
 moon give up their place, when love shines out of



glo - ry gleams: the new cre - a - tion has be - gun.
 dry its tears, as na - tions stream towards your light.
 all the lands, and wel - come all the hu - man race.
 ter - nal skies, from a - ve - nues of praise and peace.
 ev - ery face, our good, our glo - ry, and de - light.

THE SECOND READING

Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 6.

Jesus said, "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

L: May light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

1. Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace, Your word is now ful - filled.
 2. This is the Sav - ior of the world, The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light,
 These eyes have seen sal - va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
 God's glo - ry dwell - ing in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.

HOMILY

“Oh No, He Didn’t!”

Rev. Corzine

THE PRAYERS

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, you have given us the Word in flesh. Let the Word be the wisdom for all that we do in our lives; through Jesus Christ, this Word, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, the members, family, and friends who are listed in the Depart to Serve 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.)

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

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us in this day’s journey. Use our hands to do the work of your creation, and use our lives to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, redeemer of all. **Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

Want to give online? Please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Corzine

Designated gifts go to support **BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)**. BREAD is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 24-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. BREAD rises! Thank you for your generosity.

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Corzine

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us sing the closing hymn as we depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN

Many are the lightbeams

Lightbeams

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE



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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

February 20, 2022

This Week at First Church

2/20

9 a.m. Worship (Parish Hall & Virtual)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class
 (Classroom D & Virtual)
4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)
6 p.m. Youth Connections

2/21

7 p.m. Budget and Finance Mtg (Virtual)

2/22

7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Zoom)

2/24

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
 (Parish Hall)

Choral Evensong Today at 4 p.m.

The First Church Choir sings Choral Evensong this afternoon, at 4 p.m., including responses in B-flat major by Gerre Hancock, as well as the “Latin American” canticles by Bryan Kelly. The choir also will sing Morten Lauridsen’s haunting “O nata lux.” Tyler W. Robertson will be featured as the organist, and the Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston officiates.

Lent at Home Kits

The Christian Education Commission (Faith Formation) will again be providing “Lent at Home” kits for the Lenten season. The kits will be given out after each service on February 27 in the Education Breezeway and the Narthex. We will also have a drive-by in the North parking lot distributing from 12:15-1 p.m. We hope this will help in your faith journey during Lent.

Justice and Mercy Commission Collects Items for Overnight Warming Center

Justice and Mercy Commission supports the overnight warming center at The Church for All People (UMC) on Parsons Avenue in February.

The Church for All People has an overnight warming center every night from 7 p.m.-7 a.m. They are in need of supplies and volunteers.

First Church is collecting new or clean winter hats, gloves, and hand/foot warmers for adults and children now through February 27.

A drop box will be available inside the Ninth Street door during church office hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. A drop-off Sunday location in the Education Wing will be available.

You may also make a purchase on Amazon.com (https://www.amazon.com/s?k=bulk+winter+hats+and+gloves+for+homeless&crd=1UHU33KD3FECS&sprefix=_bulk+winter+hats+and+gloves%2Caps%2C94&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-doa-p_1_27) and send the items directly to First Congregational Church, UCC, 444 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Contact Rev. Emily Corzine, ecorzine@first-church.org if you are available to volunteer for the warming center.

First Church Choir to Host Curbside Pasta Dinner and Online Auction

In anticipation of its pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral, UK, in August, the First Church Choir will host its final major fundraising event. The ever-popular pasta dinner and auction are back and both have a new look.

Dinners will be carry-out only and available on Sunday, February 27 between 4 and 6 p.m. Pre-orders are now being taken and are accepted through Friday, February 25. There are no “at the door” sales. Dinner includes baked ziti (with meat, vegetarian, or gluten-free); tossed salad; and Italian bread. Ticket prices start at \$15 for one meal and vary according to your meal choice. Once registered you will be assigned a 30-minute window, between 4 and 6 p.m., on Sunday, February 27, to pick up your order at the church.

Visit <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/t/first-church-choir-carry-out-pasta-dinner-8bfe0ed368> for more details and to place your carry-out dinner order. Only online payments will be accepted.

The Auction will be offered online as well. Bidding will open on Sunday, February 20 @ 8 a.m., and will close Saturday, February 26 @ Noon. In order to bid and continue to increase your bids, or select multiple items, you must register online.

For more information and to complete the registration process, visit <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/First-Church-Choir-Silent-Auction-2022-28782> for more details. Registration is simple: Click the link to the Auction site, click ‘Register to Bid’ and you’re ready to go!! Only online payments will be accepted for Auction items. In addition, if you would like to make a cash donation to the choir you may also do that through the Auction site by clicking on the ‘Donate’ button.

See you online soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Purchase Kimball Organ CD

Minister of Music Kevin Jones plays music of Herbert Howells and Sir Edward Elgar on the 1931 Kimball organ at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio. Containing more than 71 minutes of music, this physical CD is available for \$15 each and can be ordered through contacting the main office or by visiting the purchase site, <http://concertsatfirstchurch.org/getkimballcd/>

The album will also be available on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon, and many other digital distributions; however, the accompanying 12-page booklet will only be available with the physical CD.

This album was funded and produced through the Barnard Music Fund and is released in celebration of the 90th birthday of the Kimball organ.

Lenten Sermon Series 2022: The Lord’s Prayer

Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 2 through Easter Sunday, April 17, the 2022 Lenten Sermon series will focus on The Lord’s Prayer. Join us as we explore this powerful and uniting prayer.

If you would like to share thoughts or stories about The Lord’s Prayer and what it means to you and your faith journey, please email Melissa Kulwicki at communications@first-church.org

Nursery Workers Needed

First Church is looking to hire two adult nursery workers. Positions are immediately available. Please contact Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org for more information.

Give

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to “Enter to worship, depart to serve.” You can support the mission and ministry of First Church now by scanning the QR Code presented below, using either EasyTithe or PayPal, by visiting www.first-church.org/give.aspx, or by sending your offering directly to First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@first-church.org.



Designated gifts go to support **BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)**. BREAD is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 24-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. BREAD rises! Thank you for your generosity.

For more information visit <https://www.breadcolumbus.com>.

Livestream Ministry Seeking Volunteers

The Livestream Ministry is seeking volunteers to join the team that is extending our Sunday worship services to online viewers in Central Ohio and beyond. No video production experience is needed. The team provides the training, and the permanently-installed equipment is straightforward to use. Extend your worship by being a part of our congregation's Extravagant Welcome to members and visitors.

Online worshipers are members of our faith community participating from home or while traveling. We also have viewers that are seeking a spiritual resting place or simply enjoying First Church's preaching and music. The current team of three is looking to at least double its size as we aim for a one-Sunday-service-a-month commitment level. The commitment each Sunday is 30 minutes before the start of worship through the end of the service. There is the potential for offering recording and streaming services for weddings, memorial services, and other events in the sanctuary and Parish Hall as well.

Interested or ready to join? Contact Peter Murray (peter@pandc.org) or Emily Corzine (ecorzine@first-church.org). If you have questions, ask any of the livestream ministry team members: Peter Murray, Janet Newcity, and Mike Kennedy.

Global Mission Partner

Angelica Santiago-Gonzales, Chile

Angelica Santiago-Gonzalez is a global mission intern serving with the Shalom Center and Campground of Chile. The mission of the center is related to the values of Faith, Dignity, Creativity, and Transformation. It provides safe spaces for spiritual and emotional healing and nurturing the relationship with oneself and God. Her role is to do research and build a curriculum regarding resilience and trauma that can be used at a camp for children. She also is developing a workshop for parents and teachers to identify red flags and signs of potential child abuse.

Learn more about Global Ministries by visiting <https://www.globalministries.org/>.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

February 20	BREAD
February 27	Deep Griha Scholarships
March 6	Riverview International Center
March 13	Sister of Empowerment

Keep in Prayer

Members Janice White; Judy Smith; Lou Flocken; Martha Huey; Barbara Knox; Betsy Zahn; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; and Pauline Fritz.

Family and friends Colleen Merrill; David Hogrefe's mother Linda Hogrefe; Cali Mitchell's parents, James and Juanita; Amy Wagner's friend, Ken Burke; Susan Brooks' son, John Kampmeier; Claudia Glenn's mother, Mary Booth; Melva Fisher's son, Stephen Fisher; Kathy Reed's friend, JD Mace.

Those who mourn loved ones Leigh Briggs, his niece and her husband, Carrie and Alex Heiden, on the death of their infant daughter, Lola Collette Heiden; Joe Bellissimo and Kevin Jones, Joe's mother Nancy Bellissimo, sisters Cherie and Tina, and brother-in-law, Scott Garver, on the death of Joseph Bellissimo, Sr.; Steven Ferris on the death of his friend, Ralph LeRue; Association Minister Rev. Patricia Battle on the death of her mother, Hattie Holland; Nick Bruckelmeyer on the death of his grandmother, Joanne Severance; and Sheri Moreen on the death of her mother, Dorothy Van Cleef.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of France, Germany, and Monaco. We pray for Global Ministries worker Angelica Santiago-Gonzales in Chile.

Please note that individuals will remain on the prayer list for three weeks unless specified to clergy or staff.

Emergency Pastoral Care Line

If you need to be in touch with Rev. Corzine or Rev. Ahrens for emergency pastoral care or to name a prayer request, please call **614-733-4547** and leave a message. Someone will return your call as needed.

Church Leadership

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min., M.Div.
Associate Minister Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div.
Minister of Music Kevin Jones, M.M., M.S.E.
Director of Christian Education Mark S. Williams, M.Ed.
Commissioned Minister for Social Justice Tom Brownfield
Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction Jacquelyn Dean
Administrative Manager Amy Wagner
Office Assistant Pat Patterson
Communications Consultant Melissa Kulwicki
Business Administrator Annette McCormick
Building and Grounds Superintendent Mark Dahnke
Building and Grounds Assistant Darrell Cross
Wedding Coordinators Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani
Nursery Staff Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor, Miranda Gumbita
Senior Deacon Gregory Halbe
Deacons Alec Deitz, Chris Gelpi, Scott Graham, Tom Kiesel, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, Nancy Kreimer, Gail Lowe, James Lowe, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Lynn Wallich, Hank Wilson, Martha Wilson, Marty Worth
Church Council Leadership
Moderator Christine Farquhar
Moderator-elect Allison Lowery Palmer
Treasurer Andy Bensing
Treasurer-elect James Velo
Secretary Nicole Moss
Secretary-elect Gretchen Atkinson
Board of Trustees
Chairperson Sue Cook
Trustees Allen Baker, Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Kevin Cubick, Elizabeth Iannarino, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Judy Smith, Christopher Washington
Commissioners
Administration Dennis Secor
Administration-Elect Chris Glaros
Church Growth Geoff Smith-VerHage
Church Growth-elect Steve Sterrett
Church Vitality Kosby Carrico
Church Vitality-elect Wendy Kennedy
Education Linda Slocum
Education-elect Dameon Jones
House & Grounds Mark Brown
House & Grounds-elect Mike Kennedy
Justice & Mercy Kris Brant
Justice & Mercy-elect Heather Giffen
Music, Arts & Heritage Sandra Mathias
Music, Arts & Heritage-elect Melissa Kulwicki
Members-at-Large Dayna McCrary and Alyssia Palmer
Nominating Committee Chair Alec Deitz

Welcome Statement

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

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.

Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith 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
Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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