

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

February 27, 2022

The Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration Sunday

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 Dora Paolucci, pianist

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come

People: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

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.



- L: God reigns; let the people tremble; God is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
- P: God is great in Zion and is high above all peoples.
- L: Let them confess God's Name, which is great and awesome; God is the Holy One.
- P: "O mighty Ruler, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
- L: We proclaim your greatness, O God, and fall down before your footstool; you are the Holy One.
- P: Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon your Name, they called upon you, and you answered them.
- L: You spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.
- P: "O Holy God, you answered them indeed; you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.
- L: Proclaim the greatness of our God, and worship on God's holy hill,
- P: for our God is the Holy One.
- 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

Rev. Ahrens

- 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.

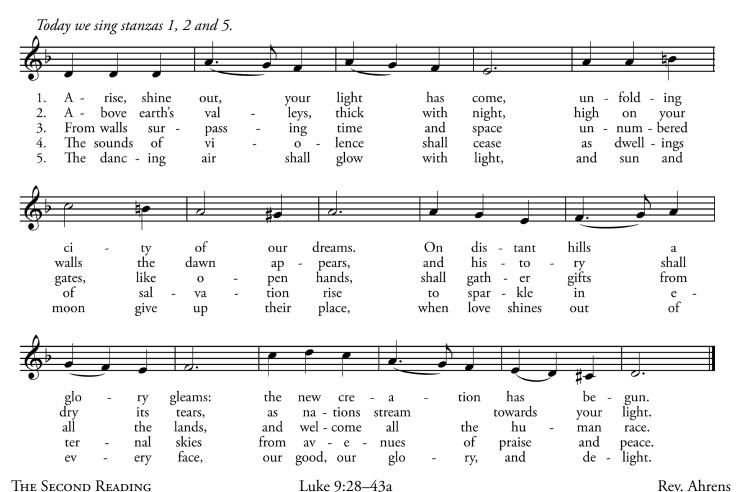
The First Reading Exodus 34:29–35 Rev. Corzine

A reading from the book of Exodus, chapter 34.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

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

P: Thanks be to God.



A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 9.

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* Canticle: Song of Simeon Land of Rest



Номіцу

"Coming Down from the Mountain"

Rev. Ahrens

The Prayers Rev. Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Radiant God, source of light, as you surrounded Jesus with your glory, so you come to us in penetrating brightness. You catch us off guard and expose our weakness. We choose the limelight while you call us to explore the shadows and brighten the darkness. We seek the spectacular while you bind up the broken in countless acts of mercy. We seek to stay on the mountain or in a comfortable pew while you walk to the valleys of need. Radiant God, fill us with light and courage to carry good news into all the corners of the world and to bring back the joy of your presence. Amen. (From Shaping Sanctuary: Proclaiming God's Grace in an Inclusive Church, © 2000. Reprinted by permission.)

(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.**

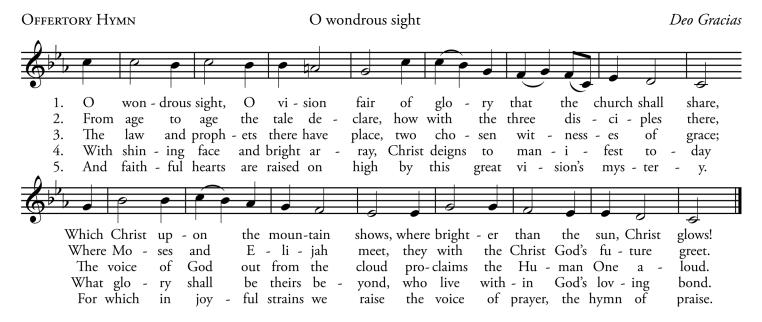
THE OFFERTORY

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 **Deep Griha Scholarships**. Deep Griha, in Pune, India, a mission partner with First Church, is a charitable organization working to improve the lives of people living in the slums of Pune. Thank you for your generosity.



Holy Communion Rev. Corzine

Post Communion Prayer

Rev. Ahrens

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

Christ.

in

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

Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light. Our one light is Je-sus.

* Blessing and Dismissal Rev. Ahrens

Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light; we are one

Postlude

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"Lord, bid your servant go in peace" - Text: paraphrase by James. J. Quinn, © 1969, 1989, James Quinn; admin. OCP Publications. Music: Land of Rest, Public Domain.

"O wondrous sight" - Text: Latin, 15th century, trans. John Mason Neale, 1854. Music: *Deo Gracias*, English ballad melody, Trinity College MS., 15th cent. Public Domain.

"Many are the lightbeams" - Text: Anders Frostenson, © 1972, AF-Foundation Hymns and Song, Verbum; English tr. by David Lewis. Music: © 1974, Olle Widestrand.

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February 27, 2022

This Week at First Church

This week at Thist Chui

2/27

9 a.m. Worship (Parish Hall & Virtual)

11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)

12 noon Lent at Home Kit Drive By

(North Parking Lot)

4 p.m. Pasta Dinner Pickup

2/28

12 Noon Grief Support Group (Virtual)

5 p.m. BREAD Mtg (Parish Hall)

3/1

6 p.m. Personnel Comm. Mtg (Virtual)

6:30 p.m. Christian Education Mtg (Virtual)

7 p.m. Justice & Mercy Mtg (Zoom)

3/2

12:05 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

(Sanctuary & Virtual)

7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

(Sanctuary & Virtual)

3/3

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal

(Parish Hall)

3/5

10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg

(Virtual & Classroom C)

The Lord's Prayer 2022 Lenten Sermon Series

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching "Teach Us to Pray the Lord's Prayer"

First Sunday in Lent

March 6, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching

"Our Father Who Art in Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name"

Second Sunday in Lent

March 13, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching

Thy Kingdom Come"

Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022

The Rev. Emily Corzine Preaching

"Thy Will Be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven"

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching "Give Us This Day our Daily Bread"

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching

"And Forgive Us Our Debts, as We Forgive Our

Debtors"

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 10, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching

"Lead Us Not into Temptation but Deliver Us from Evil"

Easter

April 17, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching

"The Kingdom, Power and Glory are Yours Forever."

Lenten Studies with Rev. Ahrens

"Breath of Life: God as Spirit in Judaism"

Rev. Ahrens continues the Wednesday Book Study with a whole new book - beginning March 16 at 10:30 a.m. During his 2021 Sabbatical, Rev. Ahrens spent time with Rabbi Rachel Timoner. She is one the "Geniuses of Justice" in his new book. Here in Rabbi Timoner's book, she explores the Hebrew Bible, Midrash, and other rabbinic writing to uncover surprising insights about how God as spirit influences Jewish ideas of creation, revelation, and redemption. Written with an accessible and engaging voice, full of stories and relevant teachings, Breath of Life speaks to lay readers and scholars alike, as it pursues a new perspective on Judaism's sacred texts. This book promises Christian readers meaningful insights on their own notions of God as Holy Spirit while giving Jewish readers a new look at their own tradition.

If you are reading this and have never been with us before, you are invited to get the book through Amazon and join us for this study. We meet the first and third Wednesday mornings each month from 10:30-11:45 a.m. In March, we will meet March 16 and March 30 (a slight change) but return to April 6 and 20 in the following month. Share with your friends – Jewish, Christian, and others interested in the movement of God's spirit in this world. Call Rev. Ahrens if you have questions – 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

To register for the study, visit https://conta.cc/3JJerTe

Books can be purchased on Amazon at https://www.amazon.com/Breath-Life-Spir-it-Judaism-Paraclete/dp/1557257043/
ref=sr 1 1?crid=1Y1SLQ7G8V75U&key-words="Breath+of+Life%3A+God+as+Spirit+in+Judaism"&qid=1645628393&sprefix=breath+of+life+god+as+spirit+in+judaism+%2Caps%2C117&sr=8-1

"Teach Us to Pray" Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Leads Zoom Lenten Small Group

Four Mondays in Lent: March 7, 21, 28, and April 4, 7-8:15 p.m.

In Matthew 6, the people around Jesus don't know how to pray. They come to him and ask him for his guidance in prayer. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus gives good lessons in approaches to prayer, when to pray, and how to pray.

On four Monday nights in Lent, we will share with one another our approaches and experiences with prayer. Rev. Ahrens will open each evening with a brief lesson and then discussion will follow. Please sign up and join us and let all learn and grow in our life of prayer - together. Call Rev. Ahrens if you have questions – 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

Visit https://conta.cc/3haKSy0 to register.

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 today after each service 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.

Lenten Small Group Studies with Rev. Corzine

Tea for the Soul: Reflections on Sufficiency Thursday 10-10:45 a.m. ZOOM (5 sessions)

Join Rev. Corzine in a small group for tea and reflection on the Lenten theme of Sufficiency. You are welcome here; come and bring your favorite cup of tea and join in. Created in God's image, we are enough. How do we see God in all the imperfections of our lives? Share our honest struggles through our challenging times. For more information, contact Rev. Corzine at_ecorzine@first-church.org.

Tea for the Soul: Reflections on Sufficiency Every week on Thursday until April 7, 2022

> March 3, 2022 10 a.m. March 10, 2022 10 a.m. March 17, 2022 10 a.m. March 24, 2022 10 a.m. April 7, 2022 10 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

 $\frac{https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83312127510?pwd=RG-pNN0t2ZUMrWDIwdkpLSUFURWFoUT09}{}$

Meeting ID: 833 1212 7510

Passcode: 694531

Lenten Contemplative Practices Sundays 6 p.m. Zoom

Join your heart in a contemplative group that will meet on Sunday evenings in Lent. No previous experience needed. Come, reflect, engage, and learn. For more information contact, Rev. Emily Corzine, ecorzine@first-church.org

Lenten Small Group: Contemplative Practice Every week on Sunday until April 3, 2022

> March 6, 2022 6 p.m. March 13, 2022 6 p.m. March 20, 2022 6 p.m. April 3, 2022 6 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81396643191?pwd=dXdI-MEpqZzNtWWI2R0pESk4yK3hqQT09

Meeting ID: 813 9664 3191

Passcode: 272092

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 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 to support **Deep Griha Scholarships**. Deep Griha, in Pune, India, a mission partner with First Church, is a charitable organization working to improve the lives of people living in the slums of Pune. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information visit https://deepgriha.org.

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 Rev. 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 Abigail Reed, Korea

Abigail Reed is a global mission intern serving with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). The PROK is a close partner with Global Ministries, and is very active in clergy and mission exchanges with many Disciples and UCC congregations and seminaries. The PROK is a progressive denomination, bearing witness to a number of peace and justice concerns within the Church, in Korean society, and globally.

In Haenam, at Yangmuri Church, Abigail works through the Reading Star program, teaching English through reading books. The English program focuses on faith practices and character building. She currently teaches in the English Education ministry at Yangmuri Church while also offering support to the PROK Ecumenical office in Seoul.

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

Upcoming Mission Offerings

February 27	Deep Griha Scholarships
March 2	Good Samaritan (Ash Wednesday)
March 6	Riverview International Center
March 13	Sisters of Empowerment

Keep in Prayer

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

Family and friends Pat Patterson's nephew and niece, Arnall and Christine Page; 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; and Kathy Reed's friend, JD Mace.

Those who mourn loved ones Scott Jones on the death of his aunt, Paula Taylor; 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.; Leigh Briggs, his niece and her husband, Carrie and Alex Heiden, on the death of their infant daughter, Lola Collette Heiden; 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 Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. We pray for Global Ministries worker Abigail Reed in Korea.

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

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Elizabeth Iannarino, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Judy Smith,

Christopher Washington

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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



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