



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

April 24, 2022

The Second Sunday of Easter

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

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: This is the day which God has made. Alleluia!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

** Please stand as you are able*

* 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 - PSALM 95

Come let us sing to God on high

Tallis' Canon



1. Come, let us sing to God on high, The Rock of our sal - va - tion praise; Come
2. For God is high a - bove all gods, The heights and depths are in God's hand; God
3. Bow down and let us wor - ship God Who is our Ma - ker and our Lord; We



with thanks - giv - ing to God's courts And raise our joy - ful psalms in praise.
 made the sea and all there - in, God's hands have mold - ed the dry land.
 are God's peo - ple and God's sheep; To - day, then, heark - en to God's Word.

* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 118:14–29 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: The LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.

P: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

L: the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

P: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

L: The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

P: Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

L: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

P: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

L: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

P: This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

L: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

L: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

**P: The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.**

L: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

P: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

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

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Mr. Williams

THE FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 5:27–32

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 5.

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.



1 This joy-ful Eas-ter-tide, a-way with sin and sor-row!
 2 My be-ing shall re-joice se-secure with-in God's keep-ing,
 3 Death's wa-ters lost their chill when Je-sus crossed the ri-ver.



My love, the Cru-ci-fied, has sprung to life this mor-row.
 un-til the trum-pet voice shall wake us from our sleep-ing.
 His love shall reach me still; his mer-cy is for-ev-er.

Refrain



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris-on,



our faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a-ris-en, a-



ris-en, a-ris-en, a-ris-en!

THE SECOND READING

John 20:19–31

Rev. Corzine

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 20.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

1. Let all cre - a - tion bless the Lord, till heav'n with praise is ring - ing.
 2. All liv - ing things up - on the earth, green fer - tile hills and moun - tains,
 3. O all you peo - ple ev - ery - where, lift up a hymn of glo - ry;

Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord, stir up the an - gels' sing - ing.
 sing to the God who gave you birth; be joy - ful, springs and foun - tains.
 let all who know God's stead - fast care tell our sal - va - tion's sto - ry.

Sing, wind and rain! Sing, snow and sleet! Make mu - sic, day, night, cold and heat:
 Lithe wa - ter life, bright air - borne birds, wild rov - ing beasts, tame flocks and herds:
 No tongue be si - lent; sing your part, you hum - ble souls and meek of heart:

ex - alt the God who made you.
 ex - alt the God who made you.
 ex - alt the God who made you.

HOMILY

“Designs for Trust”

Rev. Corzine

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Quietly and Slowly

Be still, be still. Be still and know that I am God.

repeat ad. lib.

Be still, be still. Be still and know that I am God.

L: We give you thanks eternal God for the hope we have in Jesus Christ, who died but is risen. We give you thanks for his presence among us. Because he lives we look to you for eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present or yet to come can separate us from your great love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. This day we offer prayers on behalf of this church, the community and world.

(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 heart in prayer. As directed, you are invited to pray silently or aloud for those needs and concerns you have.)

L: 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.**

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, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love. Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves in love and service to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 the **Ohio Environmental Council**, whose mission is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC believes one of the best ways to make progress addressing climate change and environmental problems is at the local level where leaders are less partisan. Such leaders are more prone to listen to constituents who are asking for more sustainable, livable communities with permanent, clean economies. The Ohio Environmental Council's vision is a clean, beautiful Ohio where diverse people, innovation, and all of our natural treasures thrive. Thank you for your generosity.



1. We live by faith and not by sight; no gra-cious words we hear
2. We may not touch his hands and side, nor fol-low where he trod,
3. Help then, O Lord, our un-be-lief; and may our faith a-bound
4. That when our life of faith is done, in realms of clear-er light



from one who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we be-lieve him near.
 but in his prom-ise we re-joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:
 may we be-hold you as you are in full and end-less sight.

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Corzine

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Eat This Bread

Jacques Berthier

**Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Come to me and never be hungry.
 Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Trust in me and you will not thirst.**

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

Jesus Christ is risen today

Easter Hymn

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
 Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
 Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
 Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

April 23, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 4/24**
9 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
10 a.m. Faith Formations
(Playground or Classroom B)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
4 p.m. Congregational Concert (Sanctuary)
- 4/25**
12 Noon Grief Support Group (Virtual)
- 4/26**
3:30 p.m. Congregational Care Organizational
Mtg (Virtual)
5:30 p.m. Time Out Tuesday
(Plank's Café & Pizzeria)
7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 4/28**
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)
- 4/29**
8:30 a.m. Realm Mtg (Virtual)

Time Out Tuesday April 26, 5:30-7 p.m.

Looking for new ways to meet and connect with other church members? Please join us during "Time Out Tuesday" for a casual meal and conversation with your church family! Meet us around the corner from the church at Plank's Pizzeria on Parsons on April 26, 5:30-7 p.m. First Church will sponsor the first few pizzas and appetizers.

We hope to see you there!

The Safety and Security Training Save the Date: May 1

The Safety and Security Committee will host a Safety Training session on May 1, after each service. The members of the congregation will participate in a severe weather drill after a short presentation along with instructions about fire and interruption of worship. This is a very important training for all members. We hope that all will stay and learn ways to keep us all safe during an uncertain time.

FCC Organist Alumni Gala

This Sunday, April 24, at 4 p.m. we present a joyful program to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Congregational Concerts as well as the 50th anniversary of the Beckerath organ that graces our Gallery. To do this, we present a program featuring many of the alumni organists and choirmasters of First Church.

Reaching back to 1968, John Schaefer, now living in Kansas City, will be with us. Following Canon Schaefer, Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus G. Dene Barnard shares several of his favorites over the years. Marti Rideout, twice interim Minister of Music, will be featured as narrator in the large William Albright work, "The King of Instruments." Jamie Bobb returns from St. Olaf to share in the festival, and finally, current Minister of Music Kevin Jones will play a work from the upcoming Beckerath CD as well as play the organ part in the Albright.

This will be a giant celebration of more than 50 years of service to First Congregational Church and its love and support of fine music. Following the concert, a gala reception will take place in the Parish Hall to properly fête our guests and properly toast 50 years of the ministry and outreach of music in our communities. Please make plans to join us for this very important milestone in our life together.

Keep in Prayer

Members: Barbara Clapham; Jane Weddle; Rick Brant; Ed Koetz; Betsy Zahn; Rick Sayre; Grace Glaros; Abby Prendergast; Gretchen Atkinson; Janice White; Martha Huey; Barbara Knox; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; and Pauline Fritz.

Family and friends Steven Ferris's brother, Doug Ferris; Bob Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; Jane Carter's grandson-in law, Michael Kessler and family; Bev and Bert Cook's friends, Terry Burns and Herb Smith; Stephanie Koscher's mother, Judy Young; Colleen Merrill; Amy Wagner's friend, Ken Burke; and Melva Fisher's son, Stephen Fisher.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. We pray for Global Ministries worker Nishan Bakalian in Lebanon.

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.

Give

The mission of the **Ohio Environmental Council (OEC)** is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC believes one of the best ways to make progress addressing climate change and environmental problems is at the local level where leaders are less partisan. Such leaders are more prone to listen to constituents who are asking for more sustainable, livable communities with permanent, clean economies. The Ohio Environmental Council's vision is a clean, beautiful Ohio where diverse people, innovation, and all of our natural treasures thrive. Please give generously.

For more information, please visit <https://theoec.org/>.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

April 24	Sacred Earth
May 1	BREAD
May 8	Freedom a la cart

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, Shelly Gies, Miranda Gumbita, Courtney Palmer
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
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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

BREAD'S Nehemiah Action on May 10 Will Focus on Environmental Justice

In the coming years, Columbus will experience increased rainfall and flooding due to the warming climate. The impacts on people are likely to be more mold in homes, particularly in vulnerable neighborhoods, and more respiratory and heat-related illnesses.

The BREAD Organization's Nehemiah Action on Tuesday, May 10, will focus on these environmental impacts. Members of First Church's Justice Ministry Network are recruiting church members, friends and neighbors to attend this in-person event from 6:40 to 8:30 p.m. at the Celeste Center on the Ohio State Fairgrounds.

BREAD's research found that Columbus has less tree coverage than comparable cities. Trees are important because they mitigate flooding and their shade reduces urban heat. BREAD proposes to work with city officials and other decision-makers to craft a private tree protection ordinance. BREAD also proposes to further research the mold problem and to encourage greater recognition of its danger to human health.

Virtual Coffee Hour

The next Virtual Coffee Hour is Sunday May 1, at 10 a.m.

Global Mission Partner Nishan Bakalian, Lebanon

Nishan Bakalian serves with the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches (UAWCNE) in Lebanon. Headquartered in Beirut, Lebanon, the UAWCNE throughout the Middle East supports a network of churches, schools and institutions. It primarily serves the needs of the Armenian communities in the countries where they reside after having been displaced from their historic homelands early in the 20th century.

Mr. Bakalian supports these ministries by serving alongside the clergy and lay leadership, by training and mentoring young leadership, by encouraging those who sacrificially serve here, and by offering his musical, linguistic and administrative expertise to churches and schools. He also serves by speaking, preaching, and writing in the Armenian language, and by occasionally extending this same effort to a sister church union in Armenia, the Evangelical Church of Armenia.

He notes that one of the greatest challenges facing the region, as well as the UAWCNE, is the departure of many Christians, including Armenians, from the region. There is a severe lack of financial resources in Lebanon as fewer people are left to support the ongoing work, while basic costs of living skyrocket. A less-than-transparent governmental system as well as regional and international struggles lead many of the brightest, most talented, and most principled youth to emigrate from Lebanon for what they consider a better future.

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

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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