



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

May 1, 2022

The Third 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

Dora Paolucci, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

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 30 (*read responsively by verse*)

Rev. Corzine

L: I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

P: O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

L: O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

P: Sing praises to the LORD, O you faithful ones, and give thanks to God's holy name.

L: For God's anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

P: As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

L: By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

P: To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication:

L: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

P: Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!"

L: You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

P: so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you 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. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

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 9:1–6

Rev. Corzine

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 9.

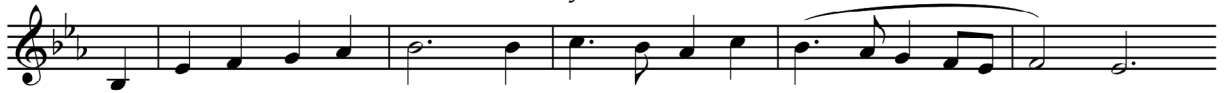
Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

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 - cure with - in God's keep - - ing,
 3 Death's wa - ters lost their chill when Je - sus crossed the ri - - - ver.

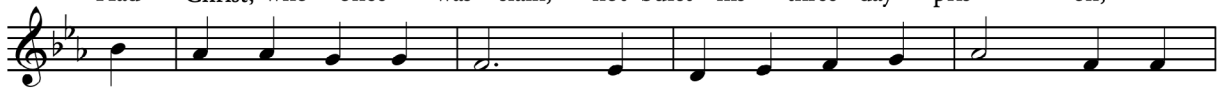


My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has sprung to life this mor - - row.
 un - til the trum-pet voice shall wake us from our sleep - - ing.
 His love shall reach me still; his mer - cy is for - ev - - er.

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 21:1-19

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 21.

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will

stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

* CANTICLE: A SONG OF CREATION

Whitehead

HOMILY

“Why Ask?”

Rev. Ahrens

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

Quietly and Slowly

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 support **BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)**. BREAD is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 25-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.

OFFERTORY HYMN

They cast their nets in Galilee

Georgetown

1. They cast their nets in Gal - i - lee just off the hills of brown;
 2. Con - tent - ed, peace - ful fish - er - men, be - fore they ev - er knew
 3. Young John who trimmed the flap - ping sail, home - less, in Pat - mos died.
 4. The peace of God, it is no peace, but strife closed in the sod.



such hap - py, sim - ple fish - er - folk, be - fore the Lord came down.
 the peace of God that filled their hearts brim - ful, and broke them too.
 Pe - ter, who hauled the teem - ing net, head - down was cru - ci - fied.
 Yet let us pray for but one thing— the mar - velous peace of God.

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. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

May 1, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 5/1**
9 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
10 a.m. Faith Formation
(Playground or Classroom B)
Safety Training Session (Parish Hall)
11 a.m. Worship
(Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:15 p.m. Safety Training Session (Parish Hall)
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
(Virtual and Classroom C)
4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)
- 5/2**
9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution (Virtual)
12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
6:30 p.m. House and Grounds Mtg (Virtual)
- 5/3**
5 p.m. Covid Task Force Mtg (Virtual)
6 p.m. Personnel Committee Mtg (Virtual)
6:30 p.m. Christian Education Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Justice and Mercy Mtg (Virtual) —
- 5/4**
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)
2 p.m. Realm Mtg (Virtual)
6 p.m. Unsheltered Around First Church Mtg
(Virtual)
7 p.m. Book Club (Virtual)
- 5/5**
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)
- 5/7**
9 a.m. Flower Pick up from Youth
(North Parking Lot)
10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Virtual)

The Safety and Security Training Today After Both Services

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.

Concerts at First Church Choral Evensong Today, May 1 at 4 p.m.

The First Church Choir sings its final Choral Evensong of the regular season today at 4 p.m. Responses are by Welsh-composer Kenneth Leighton with the Latin-American Canticles by Bryan Kelly. Charles Wood's ever-popular evening anthem "Hail Gladdening Light" will be presented as the anthem. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston officiates, Kevin Jones conducts the choir, and Tyler W. Robertson serves as organist.

First Church Book Club

All are invited to the First Church Book Club. The next meeting is on May 4 at 7 p.m. by Zoom. The selection for the month of May is "One of Ours" by Wil- la Cather. The book won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 100 years ago. For more information and the Zoom link, contact Elaine Warren at melainewarren232@gmail.com.

Cultivating Generous Congregations Seminar

The Cultivating Generous Congregations Seminar returns with great resources for First Church. A small cohort from First Church is forming. The program takes place over 12 weeks (6 sessions of 90 minutes each plus readings/work in-between). It provides tools, ideas, and insights into congregational fundraising. It is a 5 hour a month commitment and all on Zoom.

There are two seminars starting this summer. Classes will be on June 2, 16, 30, July 14, 28, and August 11, via Zoom.

Contact Rev. Emily Krause Corzine for more information. Deadline for registration is May 11. Register at <https://web.cvent.com/event/8840a37f-c0a7-4ecc-bf22-a56413174531/summary>

Virtual Coffee Hour

Virtual Coffee Hour is today at 10 a.m.

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81281921601?pwd=b3Yxc-Ghjd1RQakRIK0tNMUYyN2d0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 812 8192 1601

Passcode: 765775

Sunday Stroll

Come take a Sunday stroll with us at Inniswood Metro Gardens on May 22 2-4 p.m. We will meander through this beautiful park while enjoying good company and all that nature has to offer. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. There are multiple trails and all are classified as easy and less than one mile long. We will walk multiple trails so feel free to join us for all of them or just one. In the event of heavy rain or storms, the event will be rescheduled for a future date. Please be sure to register so you will receive any necessary email communication. Meet us at the garden's entrance area. We look forward to seeing you!

Please register by Saturday, May 21!

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?ll-r=vtA6sivab&oeidk=a07ej63539u145a7170>

About Inniswood Metro Gardens:

Situated on 123 acres, Inniswood Metro Gardens is a continual source of inspiration for central Ohioans of all ages. A natural woodland is home to native wildflowers, wildlife and waterways and provides a majestic backdrop to the beautifully landscaped gardens and lawns.

Dedicated to the enjoyment, cultivation, and preservation of nature's treasures, Inniswood boasts more than 2,000 species of plants, specialty collections, and themed gardens, including a children's garden, as well as the Rose, Herb, Conifer, and Woodland Rock Gardens.

Link to Trail Maps : <https://www.inniswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Inniswood-map.pdf>

Link to Park Brochure:: https://www.inniswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/INN_brochure_2017-lr.pdf

Directions:

From I-270, take exit 29, the State Route 3/Westerville exit. Drive south on State Route 3 to Dempsey Road and turn left. Continue on Dempsey to Hempstead Road (second traffic light) and turn left. Continue on Hempstead approximately one-quarter mile—stay on Hempstead Road as it turns right just past the Blendon Township Community Complex. The entrance is approximately one-tenth mile on the right-hand side.

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@firstchurch.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 25-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.

To learn more about BREAD visit <https://www.bread-columbus.com/>

Global Mission Partner Eleazar Fernandez, Philippines

Eleazar Fernandez serves with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. He is president and academic dean of Union Theological Seminary, the oldest Protestant seminary in the Philippines. For more than a hundred years, it has educated Filipino pastors and other church workers. The seminary currently has over two hundred students in its degree programs, representing six countries: Philippines, Myanmar, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Nepal. As president, Mr. Fernandez exercises fiduciary, strategic, and generative leadership. As academic dean, he leads the institution toward academic excellence. He states that one of the major challenges is helping various stakeholders to move beyond narrow self-interest to work together toward shared vision.

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

BREAD Sunday

Sunday May 1 is BREAD Sunday, and all BREAD Network members will be recognized in both the 9 and the 11 a.m. service. Please join us if you can!

This year the Nehemiah Action will be standing for several justice issues in addition to Environmental Issues. Included in this year’s action is also the problem of gun violence; and the issue of affordable housing.

In case you are not sure about the way BREAD is conducting the Action:

Please know that the officials know ahead of time what we will ask. God calls us to confront unjust systems, and we can do that best face-to-face with large numbers of people to press a decision maker/public official to implement a well-researched, proven solution to the problem.

Yes, it might be tense, but what makes us more uncomfortable is that members of our community face housing or food problems because **available funds are directed towards more affluent neighborhoods and more profitable ventures.**

We are working to get the entire congregation involved in doing justice and would like to invite you and your family/household to join us for the **Nehemiah Action on Tuesday May 10 at 6:45 p.m. at the Celeste Center at the Fair Grounds.**

Please see Antoinette Beynen (240-557-9770 or antoinettekbr79@gmail.com) for tickets or additional information.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

May 1	BREAD
May 8	Freedom a la cart
May 15	Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center and Canine Companions for Independence
May 22	Broad Street Presbyterian Church
	Food Pantry
May 29	Cue Seminaries

Keep in Prayer

Members Barbara Clapham; Jane Weddle; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Rick Sayre; Grace Glaros; 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.

Those who mourn loved ones Kris and Richard Brandt, Deb Kelly and Larry Thorne, John and Libby Koetz, and Lee and Jarod Kiesel and their children Wesley and Spencer, on the death of their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Ed Koetz.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. We pray for Global Ministries worker Eleazar Fernandez in the Philippines.

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, 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
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
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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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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885
PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741
WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG

