



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

May 8, 2022

The Fourth 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

Ann Eliot, *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 23 (*read responsively by verse*)

Rev. Ahrens

L: O God, you are my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

P: You make me lie down in green pastures and lead me beside still waters.

L: You revive my soul and guide me along right pathways for the sake of your Name.

P: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

L: You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**P: Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of God for ever.**

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 9:36–43

Rev. Ahrens

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

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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 10:22–30

Rev. Corzine

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 10.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

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

“Every Good Gift”

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 **Freedom a la cart**. Freedom a la Cart is a nonprofit social enterprise that makes meals more meaningful by tastefully combining fresh, from-scratch cuisine with life-changing employment and long-term support to local survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation. This program provides supportive services for more than 400 survivors a year, including workforce development and comprehensive life skills training. Thank you for your generosity.



1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! Thine the scep - ter, thine the throne!
2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now.
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, you on earth our food, our stay.
4. Al - le - lu - ia! Christ e - ter - nal, noth - ing can dis - rupt your reign;



Al - le - lu - ia! Thine the tri - umph, thine the vic - to - ry a - lone!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou art near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful flee to you from day to day.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Born of Mar - y, heaven and earth are your do - main.



Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood;
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived you when the for - ty days were o'er,
 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me,
 Hu - man life you ful - ly en - tered, tend - ing those we count the least,



Je - sus, out of ev - ery na - tion, hast re - deemed us by his blood.
 shall our hearts for - get your prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more."
 and the songs that sound in heav - en will re - peat your gra - cious plea.
 serv - ing both as Priest and Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Ahrens

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. Corzine

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

May 8, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 5/8**
9 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
10 a.m. Faith Formations
(Playground or Classroom B)
Realm Training (Fanning Rm)
Mentor and Parent Mtg
(Classroom C & Virtual)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 5/9**
7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Virtual)
- 5/10
5:30 p.m. Budget and Finance Mtg (Virtual)
6:40 p.m. BREAD Nehemiah Action
(Ohio Expo Ctr & Virtual)
- 5/11**
2 p.m. Realm Mtg (Virtual)
6 p.m. Unsheltered Around First Church Mtg
(Virtual)
- 5/12**
7 p.m. Security Team Mtg (Virtual)
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)
- 5/13**
10 a.m. Confirmands Rehearsal
(Sanctuary & Parish Hall)

Upcoming Mission Offerings

- 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 Seminars

Take Me Out to the Ballgame at Huntington Park

Columbus Clippers vs. Toledo Mud Hens
Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 7:05 p.m.

Join a group from First Church for a Clippers Game.
A block of tickets will be ordered.
Reserve your place by **Sunday, May 15**.
COST: \$8/per person
(Cash or Checks to First Congregational Church or
online MEMO: Clippers Game)

Contact Rev. Emily Corzine ecorzine@first-church.org
for more information!

Register at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MzI1NTY4YTYtMjc0MS00NDQ1LTk3YjktYWU4YjAxMThjNWl2>

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

If you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this year, please send us information, including the individual's name, the school they are graduating from, and their degree and possible future plans. We will be recognizing our graduates in an upcoming Connections email. Send the information to awagner@first-church.org. You also may include a photo (electronic image only).

Graduates will be recognized during the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 29.

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=vt46sivab&oeidk=a07ej63539u145a7170>

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 (ecorzine@first-church.org) for more information. Deadline for registration is May 11.

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 <https://www.first-church.org/give/>, 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 **Freedom a la cart**. Freedom a la Cart is a nonprofit social enterprise that makes meals more meaningful by tastefully combining fresh, from-scratch cuisine with life-changing employment and long-term support to local survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation. This program provides supportive services for more than 400 survivors a year, including workforce development and comprehensive life skills training. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information visit <https://freedomalacart.org>.

Global Mission Partner Danielle Murry-Knowles, Lesotho

Danielle Murry-Knowles serves with the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA). She serves as Secretary to the LECSA Planning Commission and to the LECSA Health Fund Steering Committee. The Planning Commission is responsible for making annual plans for the church. Her work with the Planning Commission includes taking and preparing meeting minutes, coordinating monthly meetings, and writing quarterly reports on the activities of the Commission. Her work with the Health Fund consists of coordinating HFSC's quarterly meetings, arranging annual visits and writing quarterly and annual reports. In addition to her secretarial duties, she also maintains the LECSA website. She states that challenges facing Lesotho include HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, unemployment, violence, corruption and climate change.

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

Keep in Prayer

Members Mitchell Dean; 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; Stephanie Koscher's mother, Judy Young; Colleen Merrill; and Amy Wagner's friend, Ken Burke.

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 India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. We pray for Global Ministries worker Danielle Murry-Knowles in Lesotho.

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.

Virtual Coffee Hour

The next Virtual Coffee Hour is Sunday June 5, at 10 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82160506973?pwd=d-Fl4dGlac1NCZW5UbzE4WE5STHR1dz09>

Meeting ID: 821 6050 6973

Passcode: 115473

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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Moderator-elect Allison Lowery Palmer
Treasurer Andy Bensing
Treasurer-elect James Velo
Secretary Nicole Moss
Secretary-elect Gretchen Atkinson
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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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Scripture readings are the New Revised Standard Version. The Psalter reading is taken from the St. Helena Psalter. © Order of Saint Helena, used by permission.



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