



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

May 15, 2022

The Fifth 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

Henry Wade

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

Mr. Wade

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 148 (*read responsively by verse*)

Maddie McWilliams

L: Alleluia! Praise God from the heavens; sing praise in the heights.

P: Praise God, all you angels; sing praise, all the heavenly host.

L: Praise God, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

P: Praise God, heaven of heavens and you waters above the heavens.

L: Let them praise the Name of God, by whose command they were created.

P: God made them stand fast for ever and ever, and gave them a law which shall not pass away.

L: Praise God from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

P: Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

P: Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

L: Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, leaders and all rulers of the world;

P: Young men and maidens, old and young together.

L: Let them praise your Name, O God, for your Name only is exalted; your splendor is over earth and heaven.

P: You have raised up strength for your people and praise for all your loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near you. Alleluia!

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

Grace Glaros

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Margaret Meyers and Alexi Cooks

THE FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 11:1–18

Aran Cunningham

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 11.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* CANTICLE: THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE

Vruchten



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 13:31-35

Sebastian Kulwicki

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 13.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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, peel 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

“Love This, Love That”
 “The Call to Justice”

Mr. Wade
 Mr. Kulwicki

THE PRAYERS

Miss Myers

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

Miss Glaros and Miss McWilliams

Designated gifts today support the work of Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center and Canine Companions for Independence. Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center is a non-profit, no-kill organization that provides refuge, aid, and care for abandoned, injured, abused, or lost cats and kittens in Central Ohio, while finding them permanent, responsible, and loving homes. Canine Companions for Independence provides service dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice, and educational settings. Please give generously.

OFFERTORY HYMN

We come to you

Mentor



| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. We come to you | by wa - ter and by word, | Filled with your Spi - rit, |
| 2. O God who made | the earth and sky and sea, | Sculp - ted in love, di - |
| 3. O Ho - ly Spi - rit, | fall like heav-en's dew, | Be born with - in our |
| 4. Je - sus who heals | us, saves and gives us life, | Friend who sus - tains us |
| 5. God, may your church | from age to age en - dure, | Bring - ing to Christ all |



| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| seek - ing Christ as Lord, | Con - firm in us di - vine and ten - der |
| verse hu - man - i - ty. | Set stars in or - bit through e - ter - ni - |
| hearts on fire for you, | Set us a - blaze to share Good News a - |
| in the midst of strife, | O ris - en Lord, em - pow - er us for |
| peo - ple, rich and poor, | and may our joy - ful song be ev - er |



| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| love. Al - le - lu - ia, | al - le - lu - ia. |
| ty. | |
| new. | |
| life. | |
| sure. | |

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

Mr. Cunningham

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. Kulwicki

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



Confirmands

Parents

Mentors

Alexi Jordan Cooks
Aran Patrick Cunningham
Grace Kristen Glaros
Sebastian Maxwell Kulwicki
Madeline Grace McWilliams
Margaret Ruth Myers
Henry Robert Wade

La Juane and Gretchen Cooks
Todd and Catherine Cunningham
Chris and Lauren Glaros
Keith and Melissa Kulwicki
Jamie and Joanna McWilliams
Matt Myers and Julia Myers
Drew and Lissa Wade

Sarah Giffen
John Deliman
Rev. Emily Corzine
Scott Jones
Camille Bendick
Jenny Provenzano
Ryan Jones

This Week at First Church

5/15

9 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
10 a.m. Coffee Sales (Education Wing)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)

5/16

5:30 p.m. Budget and Finance Mtg (Virtual)

5/17

6 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Church Council Mtg (Virtual)

5/18

10 a.m. The Largest Table (Education Wing)
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)
2 p.m. Realm Mtg (Virtual)
6 p.m. Unsheltered Around First Church Mtg (Virtual)

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 Rescheduled!

Come take a Sunday stroll with us at Inniswood Metro Gardens on June 26, 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, June 25!

Register at : <https://conta.cc/3wh9H2c>

What Does “Foster Care” Mean to You?

What are your initial thoughts when you hear the words “foster care”? What are your thoughts about “foster kids”? Have you ever heard - or believed - the following?

- *All foster kids are misbehaved and unpredictable.*
- *Becoming a foster parent is complicated, time-consuming, and expensive.*
- *You can't foster if you are single or rent your home.*
- *When you foster a child you are expected to eventually adopt the child.*
- *Fostering is always more challenging than rewarding.*
(Fortunately, none of these statements are true!)

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month. We invite you to challenge your assumptions, raise your awareness, and get involved!

Join us for [Intro to Fostering w/ Second Nurture & Buckeye Ranch](#) on Tuesday, May 17, from 6-7 p.m. (via Zoom). This will be an informal gathering to learn about the process, provide ways for you to volunteer, and answer your questions. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Register at <https://www.2nurture.org/event-details/columbus-intro-to-fostering-with-buckeye-ranch> to join us. If you have additional questions, please email Courtney at info@2nurture.org. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Mission Offerings

| | |
|--------|--|
| May 15 | Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center and Canine Companions for Independence |
| May 22 | Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry |
| May 29 | Cue Seminars |

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@first-church.org.

Designated gifts today support the work of **Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center** and **Canine Companions for Independence**. Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center is a non-profit, no-kill organization that provides refuge, aid, and care for abandoned, injured, abused, or lost cats and kittens in Central Ohio, while finding them permanent, responsible, and loving homes. Canine Companions for Independence provides service dogs to adults, children, and veterans with disabilities, and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice, and educational settings. Please give generously.

Global Mission Partner

Sara Makari serves the Diyar Consortium in Israel/Palestine. Diyar Consortium is an ecumenically oriented organization that expresses the outreach ministries of the Christmas Lutheran Church of Bethlehem. Diyar is the plural of the Arabic word “dar” that means “home,” “house,” “household,” and “homeland.” It is the equivalent of the Greek word “oikos,” that suggests “community,” and “ecumenical.”

Diyar serves the whole Palestinian community with emphasis on children, youth, and women. Its programs include education; leadership development; civic engagement; identity reinforcement through art, culture, music, theater, dance, and sports; authentic tourism; book publishing and media productions. Diyar launched Dar Al-Kalima University College for Arts and Culture in 2006 and regularly holds regional and international conferences.

It serves several thousand members and reaches more than 60,000 persons annually. Ms. Makari serves as Editor of English Language Publications for Diyar Publishing and engages in ministries of hospitality in her home. 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 Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick; 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; Amy Wagner's friend, Ken Burke.

Those who mourn loved ones Alec Deitz and family on the death of his grandfather, the Rev. James Deitz; 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 Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. We pray for Global Ministries worker Sara Makari in Palestine.

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

Moderator Christine Farquhar

Moderator-elect Allison Lowery Palmer

Treasurer Andy Bensing

Treasurer-elect James Velo

Secretary Nicole Moss

Secretary-elect Gretchen Atkinson

Board of Trustees

Chairperson Sue Cook

Trustees Allen Baker, Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Kevin Cubick,

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

Christopher Washington

Commissioners

Administration Dennis Secor

Administration-Elect Chris Glaros

Church Growth Steve Sterrett

Church Vitality Kosby Carrico

Church Vitality-elect Wendy Kennedy

Education Linda Slocum

Education-elect Dameon Jones

House & Grounds Mark Brown

House & Grounds-elect Mike Kennedy

Justice & Mercy Kris Brant

Justice & Mercy-elect Heather Giffen

Music, Arts & Heritage Sandra Mathias

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect Melissa Kulwicki

Members-at-Large Dayna McCrary and Alyssia Palmer

Nominating Committee Chair Alec Deitz

Welcome Statement

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

First Church is a Faith Community

- † Called together by God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
- † Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
- † Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.

Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation

Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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