



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

May 22, 2022

The Sixth 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

Jacquelyn Dean

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 67 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Be merciful to us, O God, and bless us; show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

**P: Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

**P: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.**

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

**P: The earth has brought forth its increase; may you, our own God, give us your blessing.**

L: May you give us your blessing,

**P: and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of you.**

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

Rev. Ahrens

THE FIRST READING

I Corinthians 13

Ms. Dean

*A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13.*

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

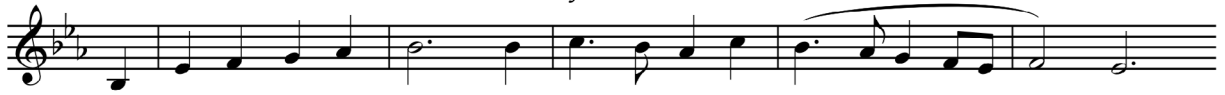
Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

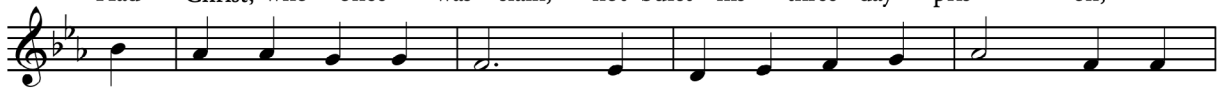


My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has sprung to life this mor - - row.  
 un - til the trum-pet voice shall wake us from our sleep - - ing.  
 His love shall reach me still; his mer - cy is for - ev - - er.

*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

Matthew 5:1-12

Ms. Dean

*A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 5.*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

“Love and Blessings”

Rev. Ahrens

THE PRAYERS

Ms. Dean

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. Ahrens

Designated gifts go to support the **Broad Street Presbyterian Food Pantry**. For more than 50 years, the Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry has supported neighbors by putting healthful meals on their tables with respect and dignity for all. In 2021, the BSPC Food Pantry provided meat, milk, eggs, dairy and shelf-stable items for 7,600 families. Pantry volunteers also deliver orders to area seniors and working families unable to visit the pantry. Thank you for your generosity.

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,  
 2. For the won - der of each hour, Of the day and of the night,  
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, Bro - ther, sis - ter, pa - rent, child,

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies;  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on Earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild;

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

## 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

Ms. Dean

**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

Rev. Ahrens

**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

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† MARK WILLIAMS IS ON vacation this morning. THE REV. EMILY KRAUSE CORZINE is preaching at Broad Street Presbyterian Church this morning, while Pastor/Head of Staff, the Rev. Amy Miracle, is on sabbatical.

## **This Week at First Church**

- 5/22**  
9 a.m.           Worship (Parish Hall & Virtual)  
11 a.m.           Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)  
12 Noon           Congregational Meeting  
                      (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 5/23**  
12 Noon           Grief Support Group (Virtual)
- 5/24**  
7 p.m.           Deacons Mtg (Virtual)
- 5/25**  
9 a.m.           Staff Retreat (Office Closed)  
7 p.m.           Unsheltered Around First Church Mtg  
                      (Virtual)

## **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>

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## **A Time of Discernment**

Church Council has approved Moderator Christine Farquhar's call for a time of discernment and gathering of the Congregation. The gathering will occur immediately following the 11 a.m. service of worship.

Council wishes to emphasize that we will not entertain motions or voting during this gathering. We also wish to emphasize that this time will not be an open forum, but instead will be informational. We also will provide time to gather less formally to give people an opportunity to share feelings, concerns, and visions for the church in small groups. Council members will serve as facilitators, active listeners, and recorders for these breakout sessions. There will be an opportunity to report out from those sessions once they have concluded so that those present can get a sense of what others have said and feel.

If you have any questions or concerns about this gathering, please email them simultaneously to all three of the below members of Council to ensure that we receive your concern; failure to copy all three of the below members of Council may result in Council not being aware of your concern.

Christine Farquhar, Moderator: [FARQUHAR128@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:FARQUHAR128@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

Allison Lowery Palmer, Moderator- Elect:  
[ALLISONLOWERYPALMER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ALLISONLOWERYPALMER@GMAIL.COM)

Nicole Moss, Secretary: [NSYDNEYM@AOL.COM](mailto:NSYDNEYM@AOL.COM)



## Ukraine Quilt Auction

Member Claudia Glenn has contributed a handmade quilt to raise money to support Church World Service for Ukraine Support. Claudia grew up in Yorkshire, England in a creative family and took up quilting a few years ago. She came to Ohio in 2011. She and her husband, Jaime, are new to First Church and we are delighted that she can share her gifts in this way.

The auction is on Charity Auctions and will run from May 19 through June 3. You can see the quilt on display in the Education Wing breezeway.

Send questions to Rev. Emily Corzine at [ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org)

To place a bid and check back, click here:

<https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/ukraine-quilt-32462>

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## 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=dFl4dGiac1NCZW5UbzE4WE5STHR1dz09>

Meeting ID: 821 6050 6973

Passcode: 115473

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## 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](mailto:awagner@first-church.org). You also may include a photo (electronic image only). Deadline for submissions is May 22.

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

## Global Mission Partner Rene Seidel, El Salvador

Rene Seidel serves with the Salvadorian Lutheran Synod in San Salvador, El Salvador. The synod serves as a spiritual home of Salvadorians through 55 churches and several faith communities (which exist in rural communities without the availability of pastors).

The Synod has special programs about immigration and re-integration, the environment, and youth outreach. It operates two colleges, health and social offices, and a shelter for homeless persons. Mr. Seidel is assigned by the bishop to the administration. He has assisted medical and health education teams from the US with translation into Spanish. He has participated in planning retreats for youth programs and in the “Immigration and Gender” project.

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

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## 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](mailto:amccormick@first-church.org).

Designated gifts go to support the **Broad Street Presbyterian Food Pantry**. For more than 50 years, the Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry has supported neighbors by putting healthful meals on their tables with respect and dignity for all. In 2021, the BSPC Food Pantry provided meat, milk, eggs, dairy, and shelf-stable items for 7,600 families. Pantry volunteers also deliver orders to area seniors and working families unable to visit the pantry. Thank you for your generosity.

Learn more at <https://bspc.org/ministries/food-pantry/>

## Food Pantry Donations

Justice and Mercy is accepting canned and boxed foods. On the first Monday of each month, the food will be donated on a rotating schedule to either Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry (even months) or Gladden House (odd months). Both organizations are in need of canned fruits, vegetables, and meats. There will be baskets by the church office, by the entrance to the education wing, and one inside the front entrance of the church.

**Monday, June 6:** Donation will go to Broad Street Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your generosity.

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## Upcoming Mission Offerings

<b>May 22</b>	<b>Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry</b>
May 29	CUE Seminaries
June 5	Strengthen the Church
June 12	First Serves
June 19	Heartland Conference Outdoor Ministries
June 26	Jessie’s World

## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Allison Lowery Palmer; Jim and Carol Woodard; Tom, Shelly, and Jordan Gies; Mitchell Dean; Barbara Clapham; Jane Weddle; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Rick Sayre; Grace Glaros; 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** family and friends of Richard Mason upon his passing; Eddie Anderson III, Eddie IV, Chutney, and family on the death of wife and mother, Tammy Anderson; and Alec Deitz and family on the death of his grandfather, the Rev. James Deitz.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of the Indian Ocean Islands of Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, and Seychelles. We pray for Global Ministries worker Rene Seidel in El Salvador.

Please note that individuals will remain on the prayer list for three weeks, unless specified to clergy or staff.

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## 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  
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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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](http://WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG)

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