



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 21, 2022

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 16

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.*

*Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve. Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.
'We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.'
(Psalm 48:8)*

PRELUDE

Fugue in E-flat Major

J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Dr. Lynn Wallich

Leader: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

** Then all stand.*

L: Have you not known? Have you not heard?

P: The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

L: He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

P: He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. . .

L: but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles.

P: they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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: ex -
 No tongue be si - lent; sing your part, you hum - ble souls and meek of heart:

-alt the God who made you.

1.2. 3.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the true sun of the universe, every rising, never setting. You are the source of all life and health. With your glance you generate, preserve, nourish, sustain, and inspire all things both in heaven and on earth. Dawn in our souls, that the night of our misdeeds and the clouds of our errors may be dispelled. With your light within us and before us, may we go through all of life without offence, walking soberly as in the day, made pure from all the works of darkness. Amen. (Erasmus)

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Samuelson

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Amos 9:13–15

Dr. Wallich

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos, chapter 9.

The time is surely coming, says the Lord, when the one who plows shall catch up with the one who reaps and the treader of grapes with the one who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant them upon their land, and they shall never again be plucked up out of the land that I have given them, says the Lord your God.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

II Corinthians 4:16, 5:17–19

Dr. Wallich

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews, chapter 4.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

P: Thanks be to God.



1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;



Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;



Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 13:10–17

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 13.

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

Part four of the six-part sermon series, "God's Good Earth."

A period of silence follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens

Litany from *God's Good Earth* (page 325, edited by Ann and Jeffery Rowthorn)

To have hope

is to believe that history continues open to the dreams of God and to human creativity.

To have hope

is to continue affirming that it is possible to dream a different world, without hunger, without injustice, without discrimination.

To have hope

is to be a messenger of God, tearing down walls, destroying borders, building bridges.

To have hope

is to believe in the revolutionary potential of faith.

To have hope

is to leave the door open so that the Spirit can enter and make all things new.

To have hope

is to believe that life wins over death.

To have hope

is to begin again as many times as necessary.

To have hope

is to believe that hope is not the last thing that dies.

To have hope

is to believe that hope cannot die, that hope no longer dies.

To have hope

is to live. (*Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, Honduras*)

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.

THE OFFERTORY

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 **Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW)**. Their mission is to keep the Olentangy River and its tributaries clean and safe for all to enjoy, through public education, volunteer activities, and coordination with local decision-makers. FLOW supports programs such as tree planting, rain barrel harvesting, butterfly garden planting, litter clean up, backyard conservation, and basic watershed education.

VOLUNTARY

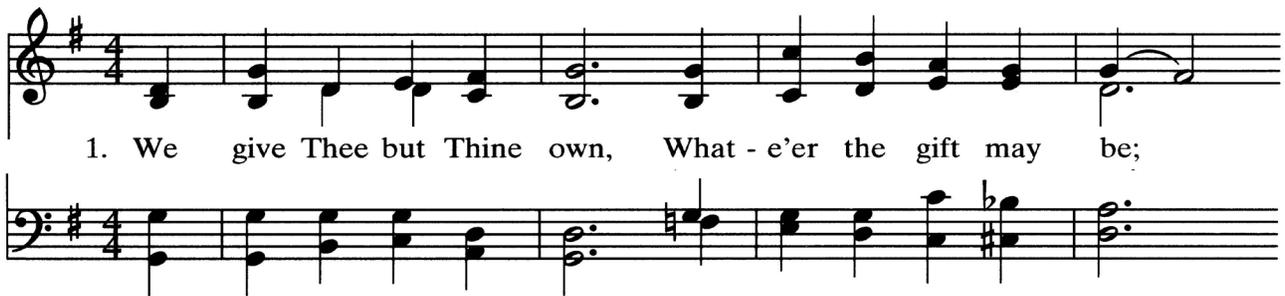
Chorale-prelude on “Blessed Jesu, We Are Here”

J.S. Bach

* PRESENTATION HYMN 428

We give thee but thine own, v. 1

Schumann



1. We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Ahrens

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. Samuelson

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

1. Hope of the world, Thou Christ of great com - pas - sion,
 2. Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
 3. Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,
 4. Hope of the world, who by Thy cross didst save us
 5. Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,

Speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.
 Bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,
 Show - ing to wan - dering souls the path of light;
 From death and deep de - spair, from sin and guilt;
 Who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain,

Save us, Thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
 Still let Thy Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
 Walk Thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways
 We ren - der back the love Thy mer - cy gave us;
 We would be faith - ful to Thy gos - pel glo - rious:

Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
 To heal earth's wounds and end our bit - ter strife.
 Lure us a - way from Thee to end - less night.
 Take Thou our lives and use them as Thou wilt.
 Thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign!

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Chorale-prelude on “Blessed Jesu, We Are Here”

J.S. Bach

Please be seated for the Postlude

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of parents Mars and Elizabeth Fontana by Martha Worth.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Chancel Steps: Dr. Acton

Broad Street Door: Rev. Ahrens

Education Wing Door: Rev. Samuelson

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

Dr. Amy Acton, *preacher*

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *worship leader*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*

Dr. Lynn Wallich, *liturgist*

Jeff McConnaughey, *organist*

Peter Murray, Mike Kennedy, Janet Newcity, Geoff Dean, *livestream ministry*

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Chorale-prelude on “Come God, Creator, Holy Ghost” by J. S. Bach (1686–1750). Public Domain.

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

August 21, 2022

This Week at First Church

8/21

9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Coffee Sales (Ed Wing)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12 Noon Reception for Rev. Heather Giffen and
Dr. Amy Acton

8/23

12 Noon Technology Committee Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Time Out Tuesday
(Barrel & Boar, Gahanna)
Deacons Mtg (Virtual)

8/24

2 p.m. Realm Mtg (Virtual)

8/25

10 a.m. Church Vitality Mtg (Virtual)

8/28

9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. First Serves (Ed Wing)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
2 p.m. Testament in Tapestry CMA Program
(Sanctuary)

Time Out Tuesday

Creekside Barrel & Boar

Tuesday, August 23

6 - 7 p.m.

121 Mill Street, Gahanna, OH, 43230

The next Time Out Tuesday is August 23, 6-7 p.m. at Creekside Barrel & Boar, 121 Mill Street, Gahanna, OH. Mark your calendars and feel free to reach out to other church friends/family and encourage them to join us! Register at <https://tinyurl.com/fctimeouttuesdayaug>

“God’s Good Earth” Sermon Series

First Church’s current sermon series is entitled “God’s Good Earth.” The series is based on Anne and Jeffrey Rowthorn’s book “God’s Good Earth: Praise and Prayers for Creation,” which contains remarkable prayers, litanies, hymns with old tunes and new words, and more.

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens will “bookend” the series; he opened the series on July 31 and will preach again on the sixth Sunday, September 4. Additional preachers will bring their many gifts to the pulpit of First Church, and we will be blessed by their reflections.

“God’s Good Earth” Sermon Series

July 31 - Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens: “In the Beginning”
August 7 - Rev. Heather Giffen: “Water is Life”
August 14 - Rev. Emily Corzine: “Kindle Within Us”
August 21 - Dr. Amy Acton: “One Hope”
August 28 - Rev. Joanna Samuelson: “Grounded in the Promise”
September 4 - Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens: “The Eighth Day of Creation”

We hope this series will reflect a deep yearning and support for God’s Good Earth.

Car Kit Blessing Bags

There are still plenty of Car Kit Blessings Bags to share with those you meet throughout the week who are homeless and/or in need of personal care products. You’ll find them in the Narthex and in the Education Wing hallway. Please feel free to take as many as you are able to give away. Thank you for your ongoing care and concern for the “least of these.” If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Rev. Joanna.

Lunch Bunch

August 31
12-1 p.m.
Condados
1227 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43201

Let's have some tacos for lunch in the Short North! It's time for our next Lunch Bunch gathering and we hope you can join us on August 31, 12-1 p.m. at Condados at 1227 N. High Street in Columbus. Mark your calendars and sign up at by August 30. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

Register at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MzYwNDc5MzgtYjIjNi00MWZhLTgxN2UyYVINTAxMWRhYThm>

Save the Date

Women's Retreat Wisdom Circle

Saturday, September 3, 2022
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Parish Hall

For the past two years, we have been living in "liminal space" - the place between what was and what is yet to be. Today, we find ourselves EMERGING from that space and into something new and perhaps unfamiliar and we are not quite sure how to respond.

Please join us as we gather once again to explore what it means to be EMERGING and transformed and ready to face what is next.

Call the church office to register. Beverages and snacks will be provided. A \$10 free will offering to cover expenses is suggested.

Contact Jackie Dean (614-425-2562) with any questions you may have.

Champions of Justice

Who is your social justice champion?

Through September 1, those who make a contribution for the Social Justice Window, will have the opportunity to have the name of their hero placed on the wall by the west entrance.

Download a nomination form by visiting <https://files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/cf9a95bf-33cf-45a3-84db-9da8e390242f.pdf?rdr=true>. Forms can be returned by mail to the church (444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215) or emailed to home@first-church.org.

We look forward to celebrating your champions along with you!

Testament in Tapestry Lecture Series

*Rabbi Sharon Mars, Senior Rabbi, Congregation
Temple Israel reflecting on the
Genesis tapestries at First Church*

August 28, 2022 from 2-3 p.m.

First Congregational Church and Online

Join Columbus Museum of Art and First Congregational Church as we bring together religious leaders from around Columbus to reflect on the themes found in CMA's latest exhibition, "Raphael—The Power of Renaissance Images: The Dresden Tapestries and their Impact," as well as the Brussels Tapestries located at First Church. This series will explore how stories of faith, found in the Dresden and Brussels tapestries, handed down through the centuries, connect to our lives today. Come together to gain a deeper understanding of the spiritual context in which the tapestries were created, and how that spirit is still vibrant and relevant.

Tickets are \$10 per person, \$5 for CMA members, and include same-day admission to the Raphael exhibition at Columbus Museum of Art. The virtual option is free and does not include admission. For more information visit <https://www.columbusmuseum.org>

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 support **Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW)**. Their mission is to keep the Olentangy River and its tributaries clean and safe for all to enjoy, through public education, volunteer activities, and coordination with local decision-makers. FLOW supports programs such as tree planting, rain barrel harvesting, butterfly garden planting, litter clean up, backyard conservation, and basic watershed education.

Global Ministries Maria Bakalian, Lebanon

Ms. Bakalian works with Haigazian University, which was inspired by the Armenian Evangelical heritage and follows the American liberal arts educational model. It is the only Armenian university outside of Armenia and is known for having a student body of diverse backgrounds. The university provides higher education in a personalized, socially moderate, and religiously tolerant environment.

Students emerge with a broader range of friendships spanning a variety of communities so that their service in their respective communities and to society at large is expressive of the broader ideals of Lebanon. Maria works specifically with the camping ministry connected to the University. She is married to Nishan Bakalian who serves with the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches.

Keep in Prayer

Members Larry Dixon; Martha Huey; Tom Gies; Sarah Ahrens Stadie; Bob Davis; Twink Starr; Lola Edwards; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Janice White; Barbara Knox; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

Family and friends Bev and Bert Cook’s sister-in-law, Sue Jones; Gretchen Atkinson’s cousin, Linda Lambeth; and Amy Wagner’s friend, Ken Burke.

Those who mourn loved ones Rev. Tim Ahrens on the death of his colleague, Rev. Dr. Sue Bertolette; the family of Margaret Browne.

We pray for Mr. Mark Williams and family while he is on sabbatical.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Liberia and Sierra Leone. We pray for Global Ministries worker Maria Bakalian in Lebanon.

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

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 inside the front entrance of the church.

Church Leadership

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min., M.Div.
Associate Minister Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div.
Minister of Music
Director of Christian Education Mark S. Williams, M.Ed.
(*On sabbatical through September 11, 2022*)
Interim Director of Christian Education Rev. Joanna Samuelson
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
Custodian Jenkins Smith
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 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), Elizabeth Iannarino, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Judy Smith, Christopher
Washington
Commissioners
Administration Dennis Secor
Administration-Elect Chris Glaros
Church Growth Steve Sterrett
Church Growth-elect
Church Vitality Kosby Carrico
Church Vitality-elect Wendy Kennedy
Education Margaret Graham
Education-elect
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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