



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

August 21, 2022

The Eleventh 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.*

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.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

** Please stand as you are able*

* THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Rev. Ahrens

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

O come and sing unto the Lord

Irish

1. O come and sing un - to the Lord, To God our voic - es raise; Let
 2. Be - fore God's pres - ence let us come With praise and thank - ful voice; Let

us in our most joy - ful songs The Lord, our Sav - ior, praise.
 us sing psalms to God with grace, With grate - ful hearts re - joice.

* PSALM OF THE DAY
(*read responsively by verse*)

Psalm 103:1–8

Rev. Ahrens

L: Bless the Holy One, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy Name.

P: Bless the Holy One, O my soul, and forget not all the gifts of God.

L: O God, you forgive all our sins, and you heal all our infirmities;

P: You redeem our life from the grave and crown us with mercy and loving-kindness;

L: You satisfy us with good things, and our youth is renewed like an eagle's.

P: O God, you execute righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.

L: You made your ways known to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

P: You are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Samuelson

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:9b–14

Dr. Amy Acton

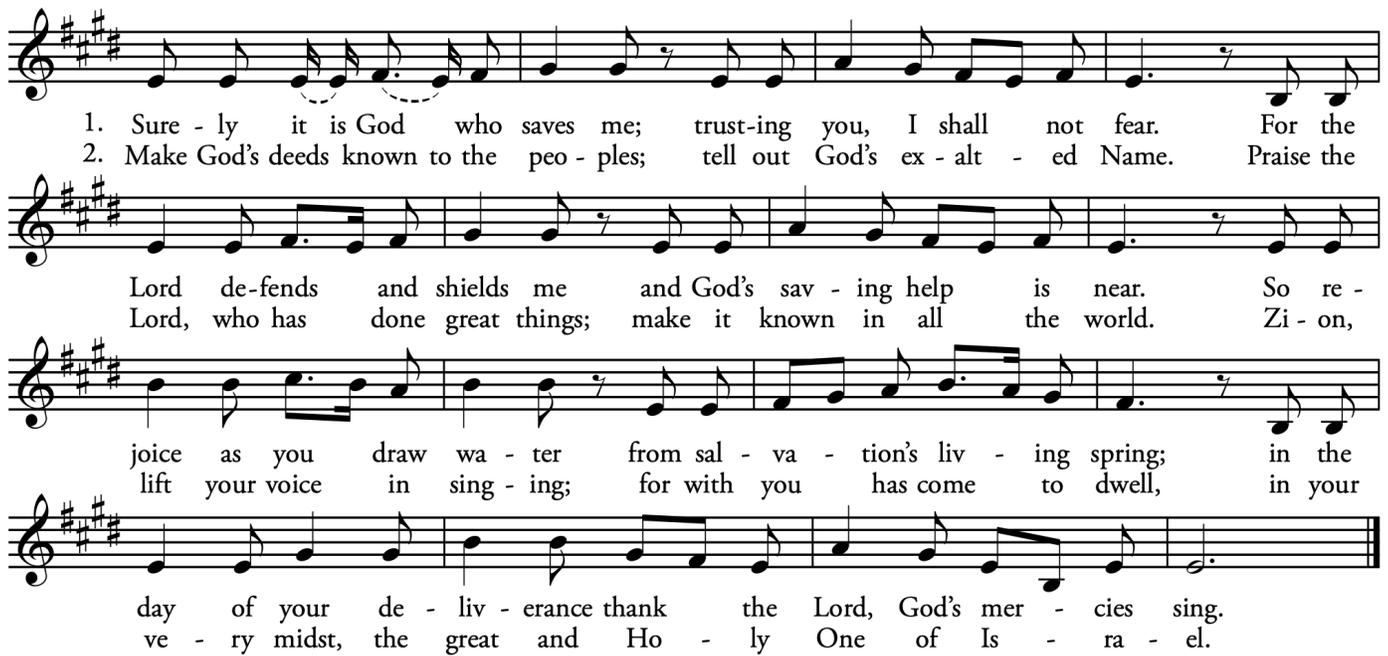
A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 58.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

P: Thanks be to God.



1. Sure - ly it is God who saves me; trust-ing you, I shall not fear. For the
 2. Make God's deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out God's ex - alt - ed Name. Praise the

Lord de-fends and shields me and God's sav - ing help is near. So re -
 Lord, who has done great things; make it known in all the world. Zi - on,

joice as you draw wa - ter from sal - va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the
 lift your voice in sing - ing; for with you has come to dwell, in your

day of your de - liv - erance thank the Lord, God's mer - cies sing.
 ve - ry midst, the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

THE SECOND READING

Luke 13:10-17

Rev. Dr. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4.

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.



1. Wis - dom freed a ho - ly peo - ple, blame-less from op - pres-sor's sword,
 2. Through the Red Sea safe - ly brought them, led a - long the wa - ters steep,



and with-stood, with signs and won - ders, rul - ers dread to serve the Lord.
 but their en - e - mies she swallowed, o - ver-whelmed them in the deep.



Giv - ing them re - ward of la - bors, led the saints a - long her way,
 For sal - va - tion, Lord, the right-eous praised your name with one ac - cord:



she was blaze of stars in dark-ness and a shel - ter through the day.
 song - filled tongues of new-born peo - ple ut - tered Wis-dom's might-y word.

HOMILY

"One Hope"

Dr. Acton

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

THE PRAYERS

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*)

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: That there may be purpose and fulfillment, O God, in all that we do,

P: *sung, each time*



L: That we may show others this day the love that you have taught us,

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: That the church throughout the world may respond to your call for peace and justice,

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: That those who are in need be helped and comforted,

P: Christ, have mercy.

(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 hearts in prayer. As directed, you are invited to pray silently or aloud for those needs and concerns you have.)

L: That we may be strengthened by your grace for the tasks of this day,

P: Christ, have mercy.

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 Friends of the Lower Olenangy Watershed (FLOW). Their mission is to keep the Olenangy 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 planing, litter clean up, backyard conservation, and basic watershed education. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 451

Be thou my vision

Slane



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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Samuelson

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Eat This Bread

Jacques Berthier

**Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Trust in me and you will not thirst.**

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. Samuelson

L: Let us sing the closing hymn as we depart with a heart to serve.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

* CLOSING HYMN

God be with you

Randolph

God be with you till we meet a-gain; lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you,

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

with a shep - herd's care en - fold you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves in the same key signature and time signature as the first system. The lyrics are written below the notes.

* BLESSING

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE



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)

“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.

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>

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=MzYwNDc5MzgtYjIjNi00MWZhLTgxN2UyYjVlNTAxMWRhYThm>

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
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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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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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