



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 18, 2022

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 20

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

CANTABILE IN B MINOR
ANDANTINO

César Franck

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Mr. Jonathan Miller

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: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are kept;

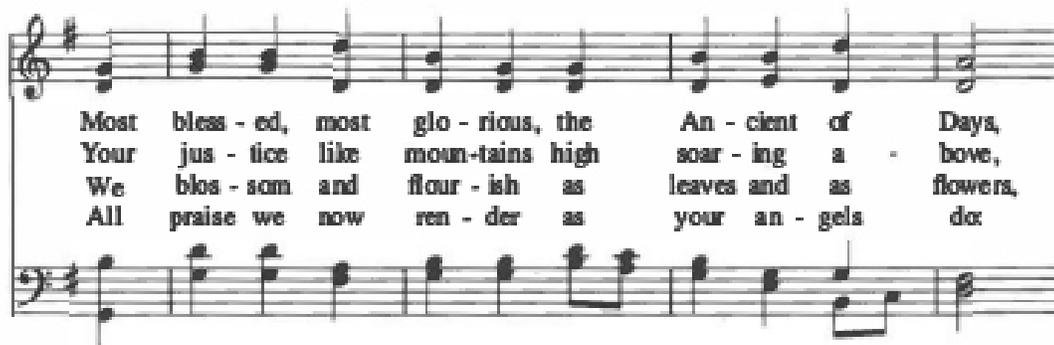
P: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts be the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may more perfectly love you and more worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Sovereign. Amen.



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise,
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers,
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, giver of all good, who continually pours your benefits upon us age after age, the living wait upon you and find that of your faithfulness there is no end and that your care is unfailing. We praise you that the mystery of our life is a mystery of infinite goodness. We praise you for the order and constancy of nature; for the beauty and bounty of the earth; for day and night; summer and winter; seed time and harvest; for the varied gifts of loveliness and the usefulness which every season brings. We give you thanks for all the comfort and joy of life, for our homes, for our friends, and for all the love, sympathy, and goodwill of all people. Amen. (A Book of Worship for Free Churches, NCH)

* 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 a sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Ahrens

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 (O.T. p. 709)

Mr. Miller

A reading from the book of Jeremiah, chapters 8 and 9.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

I Timothy 2:1-7 (N.T. p. 208)

Mr. Miller

A reading from I Timothy, chapter 1.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all--this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

P: Thanks be to God.



1 O God of earth and al - tar, bow down and hear our cry;
 2 From all that ter - ror teach - es, from lies of pen and voice,
 3 A - wak - en us to ac - tion and forge us in - to one,



Our earth - ly rul - ers fal - ter, our peo - ple drift and die;
 From all the eas - y speech - es that make our hearts re - joice,
 de - fy - ing sect and fac - tion; O God, your will be done!



The walls of gold en - tomb us, the swords of scorn di - vide;
 From val - ue's pro - fan - a - tion, from hon - or sac - ri - ficed,
 Op - pres - sive sys - tems snare us; our ap - a - thies in - crease.



Take not your thun - der from us, but take a - way our pride.
 From sleep and from dam - na - tion, de - liv - er us, O Christ!
 Great God, in mer - cy spare us for jus - tice and for peace!

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 16.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Smelling Like the Sheep”

Rev. Ahrens

Part two of the sermon series, “Revive Us Again: A Return to Jesus’ Original Program”

A period of silence follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens

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 **Good Samaritan Fund**, provides help every month to those who come to the door of First Church in need. Thank you for your generosity.

VOLUNTARY

BE NOW MY VISION
Dan Stevens, *soloist*

Slane

* PRESENTATION HYMN

WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

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.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

1. There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the wide - ness of the sea;
 2. There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3. For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;

there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should rest up - on God's

good; there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his
 shed; there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the
 word; and our lives would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the

blood.
 Head.
 Lord.

Interlude/Conclusion

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

PASTICCIO

Jean Langlais

Please be seated for the Postlude

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God, and in appreciation for Rev. Joanna Samuelson by Bev and Bert Cook.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Mr. Williams – Education Wing breezeway

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher*

Jonathan Miller, *liturgist*

Ethan Murray, *crucifer*

Emma Dean and Aubrey Schmitt, *acolytes*

Barry Moenter, *organist*

Dan Stevens, *soloist*

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

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

September 18, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 9/18**
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Faith Formation
Coffee Sales (Education Wing)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 9/19**
7 p.m. First Church Governance Task Force
Mtg (Classroom C & Virtual)
- 9/20**
7 p.m. Church Council Mtg (Virtual)
- 9/21**
10 a.m. Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery
(Education Wing)
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)
- 9/22**
7 p.m. Testament in Tapestry Lecture
(Cols Museum of Art)
- 9/24**
10 a.m. Legacy Sunday Food Prep (Kitchen)
- 9/25**
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Faith Formation
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12 Noon Legacy Sunday Celebration
(Playground)
First Serves (Education Wing)

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School resumes today at 10 a.m. It will take place in Classroom C on the first floor of the Education Wing and will be available by Zoom as well: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85931053764?pwd=a042K3RmRDZTWXBQY1VWYXQ5bUxBQT09>

First Church member and OSU Leadership Faculty, Dr. Scott Graham, will lead our first two sessions of this series: **“Navigating the Swirling Whitewater of Change.”**

Hope you can make it. All are welcome!

You can view a recording of the September 11 session by visiting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/BGkS-s6aSG8VfzNXQz797gak3QGI6JjiFZ9kW4KX07M-RFSzHhwOGJ38jyrzQMQ5nx.cfU1KezcvWo0E4P>

Passcode: ?j^6\$RO

Legacy Sunday Celebration

Join us for Legacy Sunday, the 170th anniversary of First Congregational Church, Sunday, September 25, following the 11 a.m. service on the West Lawn. There will be light refreshments, activities, including a First Serves project for Church World Services, and plenty of time to connect with your First Church family and friends! We invite everyone to wear bright “rainbow colors” to help celebrate First Church’s 20th anniversary of becoming an open and affirming congregation on September 8, 2002.

We look forward to gathering in thanks and praise for those who contributed their time, talent, and treasure to build this house of worship and justice.

Thanks be to God!

**First Serves:
Church World Services
Hygiene Kits
September 25
Legacy Sunday
Following 11 a.m. Worship
West Lawn
Under the Tents**

Help us reach our goal of assembling 300 hygiene kits during the Legacy Sunday Celebration. The kits will be distributed to those in need around the world. Monetary donations are also needed to purchase the necessary supplies.

Thank you for your generosity!

**Time Out Tuesday
September 27
6-7 p.m.
BrewDog DogTap Columbus
96 Gender Rd
Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110**

Let's get together for another Time Out Tuesday! We will meet at BrewDog DogTap Columbus in Canal Winchester where they offer burgers, pizzas, salads, tacos, sharing boards, 20+ taps of fresh craft beer, a beer museum, and a game area with pinball and tabletop shuffleboard!

Feel free to stay after our gathering and enjoy Trivia Night at 7 p.m. Dogs are welcome in their outdoor seating areas. Register at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/> by **September 26!**

We look forward to seeing you there! Cheers!

Faith Mission Meals Returning

Way back in 2020, in the early days of the pandemic, our Faith Mission meal preparation came to a screeching halt. Since then, we have gradually worked into providing food for the cooks at the Mission to prepare once a month, and have added a donation of cookies baked by some of our team as a way to stay involved and give the residents a special treat from our hands and hearts. The news came to us a couple of weeks ago that we are now able to resume preparing, delivering, and serving meals at Faith Mission once a month. Our first opportunity to gather in the First Church kitchen and prepare food as a group will be on Friday, September 23. We are in the process of contacting the folks who were on the team before we had to stop, and some have said "Yes!" to returning, while others have not.

We would welcome new folks into this hands-on, monthly meal gathering in the church kitchen where we will wash produce, prepare and cook a variety of tasty foods, and enjoy the company of some great people. If you have an interest in either cooking or serving, we would love to talk with you! Friday dinners are prepared in the afternoon and transported to Faith Mission around 4:30 for serving at 5 and 6:00 p.m. Saturday lunches are prepared in the morning and transported around 10:30 for serving at 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

If you are interested in cooking, please contact Fran Panek (franpanek@gmail.com). If you prefer to serve, please contact Linda Gieseke (L.gieseke@yahoo.com). One of us will reach out to you and try to make our prep schedule work for your interest schedule! THANKS!

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.

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 **Good Samaritan Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to the door of First Church in need. Thank you for your generosity.

Global Mission Partner Victor Makari, Palestine

Rev. Victor Makari serves the Diyar Consortium in Israel/Palestine, together with his wife, Sarah Makari. He is the editor of English Language Publications for Diyar Publishing. It is part of Diyar Consortium, a Lutheran based, ecumenically oriented organization that expresses the outreach ministries of the Christmas Lutheran Church of Bethlehem. Diyar Consortium serves the whole Palestinian community with an emphasis on children, youth, and women.

Rev. Makari says the core challenge for Palestinian friends is the chronic military occupation by the State of Israel, with its many ramifications: uprooting, displacement, emigration, loss of land and livelihood, dire economic necessity, unemployment, restriction of movement, shortages (and rationing) of basic necessities, and high import taxes of food items, clothing, electricity, and heating fuel.

Keep in Prayer

Members Stephanie and Cris Bonham and twins Malcom and Madeline; Mark Williams and Tim Carsey; Mitchell Dean; Lisa Dean; Bill Catus; Amy Wagner; 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 Deb Thompson’s mother, Kay Neffenger; Martha Huey’s sister, Stephanie Childs; Melissa Kulwicki’s friends and neighbors, John and Carrie Mosley; Heather Jones’ father, Sam Gray; and Gretchen Atkinson’s cousin, Linda Lambeth.

Those who mourn loved ones Andy Thomas on the death of his father, Eldon Thomas.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. We pray for Global Ministries worker Victor Makari in Palestine.

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

Champions of Justice

Who is your social justice champion?

Through **September 18**, 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!

Church Leadership

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min., M.Div.
Interim Associate Minister Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.
Minister of Music
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
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 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
Treasurer Andy Bensing
Treasurer-elect James Velo
Secretary Nicole Moss
Secretary-elect Gretchen Atkinson
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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 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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