



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
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.*

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 113

Rev. Ahrens

L: Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

P: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

P: The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

L: Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,

P: who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

L: God raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

P: to make them sit with princes, with the princes of God's people.

L: God gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

P: Praise the Lord!

* 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. Ahrens

THE FIRST READING

Amos 8:4-7

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the book of Amos, chapter 8.

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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 16:1-13

Rev. Ahrens

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.



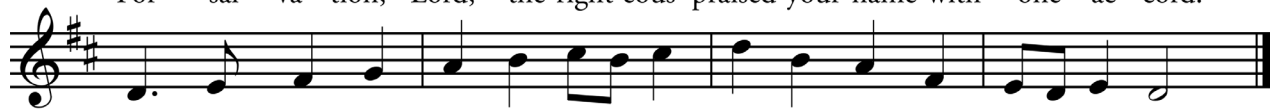
1. Wis - dom freed a ho - ly peo - ple, blame-less from op - pres-sor's sword,
2. Through the Red Sea safe - ly brought them, led a - long the wa - ters steep,



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

"Smelling Like the Sheep"

Rev. Ahrens

Part two of the sermon series, "Revive Us Again: A Return to Jesus' Original Program"

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Ahrens

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

Christ, have mer - cy.

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

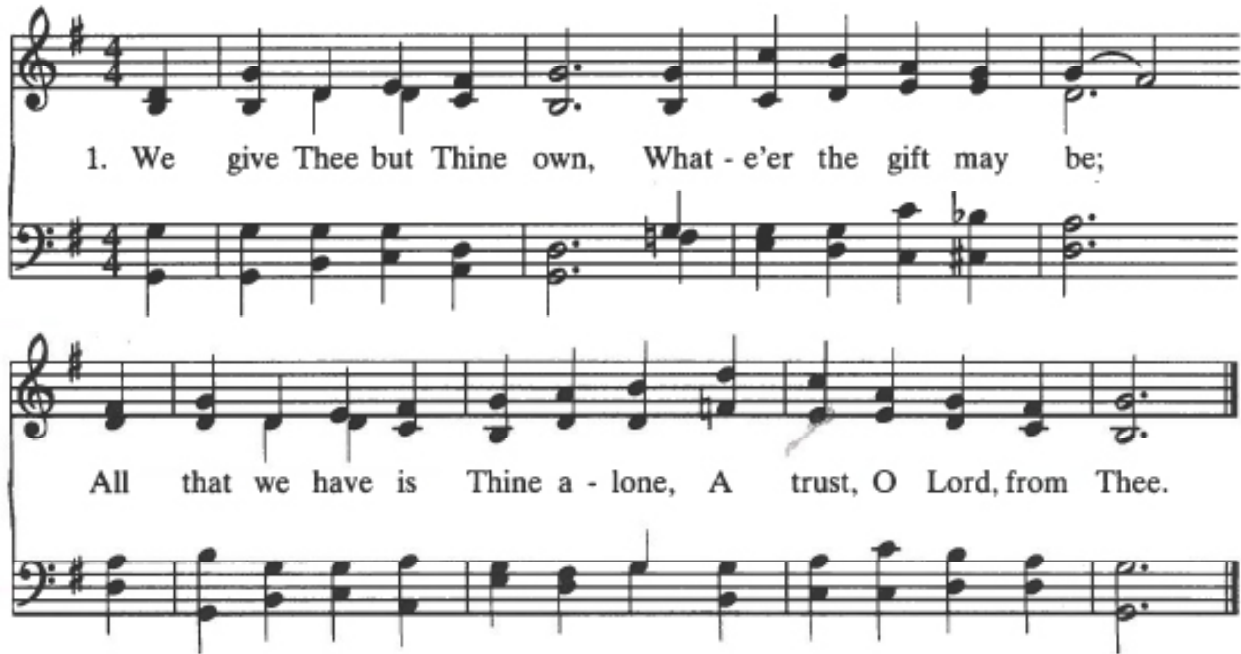
Designated gifts go to support **Good Samaritan Fund**, provides help every month to those who come to the door of First Church in need. Thank you for your generosity.

Rev. Ahrens

OFFERTORY 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.

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. Ahrens

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

* BLESSING

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders
The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher and celebrant*
Ann Eliot, *pianist*

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
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Moderator-elect
Treasurer Andy Bensing
Treasurer-elect James Velo
Secretary Nicole Moss
Secretary-elect Gretchen Atkinson
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Chairperson Sue Cook
Trustees Allen Baker, Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Elizabeth Iannarino, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Judy Smith, Christopher
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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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