



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

October 30, 2022

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost/Reformation Sunday

**WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!**

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 170 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

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

George Philipp Telemann

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Thomas Kiesel

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: With what shall we come before the Holy One, and bow ourselves before God on high?

**P: Shall we come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?**

L: God has showed you, O people, what is good; and what does the Holy One require of you?

**P: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**



1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;  
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;  
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un - do us,  
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.  
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing.  
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us.  
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth;



For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and  
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is Hé, Lord Sab - a -  
 The prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for him; His rage we  
 Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y



power are great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.  
 oth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.  
 can en - dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 they may kill, God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.



\* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

**P. And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**Eternal God, companion of all who seek you, and seeker of all who turn away from you, draw us near to you, and grant us the grace to love and serve you that we may find in your will our true freedom; through Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.**

THE REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

*We welcome into membership: Rev. Margot Connor and John Anderson, Ramona and Barry Moenter, Tyler Rogers, Robert Russell, Jill Hultin\*, Jonathan Sauer\* and Timothy Rinehart\*.*

*You are invited to welcome the new members at the Chancel steps following the service.*

*\* Joined on August 28, 2022.*

**Martha Wilson, Senior Deacon:** I invite all those who have been in conversation with First Church and now wish to accept our invitation of membership to please step forward as I read your names: Rev. Margot Connor and John Anderson, Ramona and Barry Moenter, Tyler Rogers, Robert Russell, Jill Hultin, Jonathan Sauer and Timothy Rinehart.

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through baptism. These persons standing before you have found nurture and support in our spiritual family. Through study, discussion, and prayer they have been led to reaffirm their baptism and to enter into a covenantal relationship with the members of this church. They are ready to offer their devotion and service to Jesus Christ, using the unique gifts provided them.

**Rev. Ahrens:** You are no longer strangers, but are now one of us. We are delighted to have you here and willingly share with you all of our resources. We look forward to getting to know you better in the weeks and months to come. I invite all the members and friends of First Church to join those joining in reading together our church's statement of faith and covenant.

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

**The church is a community of faith called to witness and to serve. 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.**

**Rev. Samuelson:** Will all people of faith please rise? By our baptism we are made one in the body of Christ. Today we rejoice in the journey which has brought you here. We give thanks for other communities which have been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your commitment to continue your sojourn in this household of faith. Let us read together:

WELCOME

**We welcome you with joy to the life and ministry of The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Columbus, Ohio. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be faithful witnesses to the ways of Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**Rev. Ahrens:** Let us pray. O God, we praise you for calling us to be disciples and for gathering us into the Church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this congregation and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this church. We look forward to getting to know you better in the weeks and months ahead.

\* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. 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

Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 1:10-18

Mr. Kiesel

*A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 1.*

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more! Bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation— I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove your evil deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: If your sins are like scarlet, will they become like snow? If they are red like crimson, will they become like wool?

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

*A reading from the second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, chapter 1.*

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN 421

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

Wareham

1. The church of Christ in ev - ery age, Be - set by  
2. A - cross the world, a - cross the street, The vic - tims  
3. Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, A car - ing  
4. For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, Can cure the

change but Spir - it led, Must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry For shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be A part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, And teach us how to

her - i - tage And keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, And nev - er live un - til they die.  
sac - ri - fice, And clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread And feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.

5. We have no mission but to serve  
In full obedience to our Lord:

To care for all, without reserve,  
And spread Christ's liberating word.

*A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 19.*

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

"Nothing Spooky about it: Compassion Breeds Hope"

Rev. Ahrens

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, they 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.**

INVITATION TO ANNUAL CAMPAIGN GIVING

Jonathan Miller

THE OFFERTORY

*To give online, please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet.*



MISSION INVITATION

Mr. Kiesel

Designated gifts go to support the weekly feeding ministry of **The Largest Table at St. John's United Church of Christ** in Columbus. Every Wednesday for more than ten years, volunteers provide food for individuals and families in the community who are in need. This program transitioned to grab-and-go lunches during the Spring of 2020. The First Church meal team gathers on the third Wednesday of each month to make and pack up to 100 lunches. Your gifts will help purchase the supplies for our meal team to support this feeding ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise! Triumph o'er the shades of night:  
Dayspring from on high, be near; Day star, in my heart appear.*

*Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return, Till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart, Glad my eyes and warm my heart.*

*Visit then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!  
Fill me, Radiancy Divine, Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display, Shining to the perfect day. Amen.*

## \* PRESENTATION HYMN

## Doxology

*Old Hundredth*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Samuelson

## COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voic - es,  
 2. O may this boun - teous God Through all our life be near us,  
 3. All praise and thanks to God, Who reigns in high - est heav - en,

Who won-drous things hath done, In whom this world re - joic - es;  
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us;  
 To Fa - ther and to Son And Spir - it now be giv - en.

Who, from our moth - ers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way  
 And keep us in God's grace, And guide us when per - plexed,  
 The one e - ter - nal God, Whom heaven and earth a - dore,

With count-less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.  
 And free us from all ills In this world and the next.  
 The God who was, and is, And shall be ev - er - more.

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Marche Triumphale “Now Thank We All Our God”

S. Karg-Elert

*Please be seated for the Postlude*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Melva Fisher in memory of her mother, Opal Barnette and in honor of her birthday.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Rev. Samuelson – Education Wing breezeway

Mr. Williams – Education Wing north door

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *liturgist*

Mr. Mark Williams, *liturgist*

Thomas Kiesel, *liturgist*

Matty Provenzano, *crucifer*

Barry Moenter, *organist*

Jim Gallagher, *choir director*

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

BRASS ENSEMBLE

Sarah Grosse, *trumpet*

Dave Mazon, *trumpet*

Andrew Wolfe, *trombone*

Todd Cunningham, *trombone*

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## 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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# Together in Mission Sharing God's Love

The 2023 Annual Campaign  
First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Complete this estimate of giving form and bring it with you to worship Celebration and Pledge Dedication, Sunday, October 30, 2022. You may also complete and submit it electronically or mail to the church in the envelope provided.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for annual amount

Contribute:            Weekly            Bi-Monthly            Monthly            Annually

                                                                                  

I would like more information from the office on how to give electronically.

I/We not able to pledge at this time but will give as we are able in 2023

## Ways to Make a Contribution/Pledge:

- Complete and return this pledge form in the pre-addressed envelope by October 30, 2022
- Online Pledge: [www.first-church.org/give](http://www.first-church.org/give) to pledge online. Click 2023 Online Giving Form

## For Assistance:

Contact Annette McCormick, Business Administrator at [amccormick@first-church.org](mailto:amccormick@first-church.org) or (614) 228-1741 x11

## Mail to:

444 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215