



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

January 22, 2023

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

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.*

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

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, the life and light of humanity.

People: Great is God's love for us. Alleluia!

Please stand as you are able.

(indicates Congregation standing)*

* THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

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

I Sing as I Arise Today

Seed of Life



1. I sing as I a - rise to - day! I call on my Cre - a - tor's might:
 2. The word of God to be my speech, The hand of God to be my stay,
 3. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



The will of God to be my guide, The eye of God to be my sight.
 The shield of God to be my strength, The path of God to be my way.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

L: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

P: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

L: One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

P: For God will shelter me in the day of trouble; God will conceal me under the cover of God's tent; God will set me high on a rock.

L: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in God's tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

P: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

L: "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.

P: Do not hide your face from me.

L: Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

P: Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Ahrens

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 9.

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time God will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

L: May light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

Today we sing stanzas 1 and 5.

1. A - rise, shine out, your light has come, un - fold - ing
 2. A - bove earth's val - leys, thick with night, high on your
 3. From walls sur - val - ling time and space un - num - bered
 4. The sounds of vi - o - lence shall cease as dwell - ings
 5. The danc - ing air shall glow with light, and sun and

ci - ty of our dreams. On dis - tant hills a
 walls the dawn ap - pears, and his - to - ry shall
 gates, like o - pen hands, shall gath - er gifts from
 of sal - va - tion rise to spar - kle in e -
 moon give up their place, when love shines out of

glo - ry gleams: the new cre - a - tion has be - gun.
 dry its tears, as na - tions stream towards your light.
 all the lands, and wel - come all the hu - man race.
 ter - nal skies from a - ve - nues of praise and peace.
 ev - ery face, our good, our glo - ry, and de - light.

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 4:12-23

Rev. Samuelson

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 4.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

L: May light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CANTICLE: SONG OF SIMEON

Land of Rest



1. Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace, Your word is now ful - filled.
2. This is the Sav - ior of the world, The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light,



These eyes have seen sal - va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
God's glo - ry dwell - ing in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.

HOMILY

“The Gift of Letting Go”

Rev. Samuelson

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, you have given us the Word in flesh. Let the Word be the wisdom for all that we do in our lives; through Jesus Christ, this Word, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(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.)

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, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us in this day's journey. Use our hands to do the work of your creation, and use our lives to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, redeemer of all. **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

Suzie Loik

Designated gifts go to support **Freedom a la Cart**. This downtown café and bakery space is the culmination of more than a decade's worth of work supporting and empowering survivors of human trafficking through employment, resources, and training. Freedom a la Cart is a social enterprise providing survivors with equitable opportunities for employment. Freedom became the vehicle – literally – through which survivors began the ever-important first steps toward self-sufficiency. What was once a single food cart is now a bustling café and catering company, grown from the hearts and hard work of the women who sustain them. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

Kelvingrove

1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
 5. Christ, your sum - mons e - choes true when you but call my name.

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show.

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Samuelson

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN

Many are the Lightbeams

Lightbeams

Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light. Our one light is Je - sus.

Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light; we are one in Christ.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light. Our one light is Je - sus.' The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: 'Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light; we are one in Christ.' The lyrics are written below the notes.

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Samuelson

POSTLUDE

Please note: Next Sunday, January 29, there will be one service at 10 a.m. followed by the Annual Meeting at 11 a.m.

Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

January 22, 2023

This Week at First Church

1/22

9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer & Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)

10 a.m. First Serves (Education Wing)

11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)

12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)

12:20 p.m. Confirmation (Classroom C)

1/24

7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Virtual)

1/25

7 p.m. Security Team Mtg (Virtual)

1/26

6 p.m. First Church Ringers Practice (Bell Rm)

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Parish Hall)

1/29

10 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)

11 a.m. Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)

12 Noon Congregational Potluck (Parish Hall)

Volunteers Needed to Host Future Coffee Hours

We hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy the return of Coffee Hour following the 11 a.m. service in Parish Hall! Church Vitality is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping us continue to provide this opportunity to socialize and connect with our church family. We will provide simple guidelines to follow that will make it a fun and easy way to volunteer at First Church! Please contact Kosby Carrico (kkcarrico@gmail.com) or Wendy Kennedy (wendyjkennedy@yahoo.com) if interested.

The Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29

One Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Meeting at 11 a.m.

Church Potluck at Noon

Everyone is encouraged to attend this very important yearly event in the life of our church. Childcare will be provided during worship and the annual meeting.

Voting Members are active members of First Congregational Church - United Church of Christ - Columbus, Ohio. Voting Members must be present to vote. Non-Voting Members are Associate Members of First Congregational Church - United Church of Christ - Columbus, Ohio, and Guests.

The Annual Meeting will be recorded but will not be accessible through Zoom or Live-Stream.

It's a Church Potluck!

Following the Annual Meeting join us for a Church Potluck! Bring your favorite dish to share (an 8-12 person serving) and meet us in the Parish Hall after the Annual Meeting!

Entrée/Hearty Casserole (Last Names A-G)

Soup, Chili, Side Dish (Last Names H-Q)

Veggie/Fruit/Snack Item (Last Names R-S)

Sweet Treat (Last Names T-Z)

For your convenience, you may drop off your items in the Parish Hall before the 10 a.m. service. Coffee, tea, lemonade, flatware, and utensils will be provided.

Register at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NTA1MGE3NDct-NWMzMC00MWVhLTg0N2EtYWY4ZTAxNzRkN-GU1>

This Week in Faith Formation

First Serves
Sunday, January 22
10 - 10:50 a.m.

This coming week is the fourth Sunday of the month which means that an intergenerational “First Serves” service project has been scheduled in lieu of our Sunday school classes.

This month, we will work alongside one another to label bars of soap that we will donate to The Soap Project (soaproject.org). It is a local organization that works to end human trafficking by mobilizing communities to provide prevention education and advocacy, and to facilitate restorative experiences for survivors.

Please join us this Sunday in the Education Wing hallway during the Faith Formation hour. It will be a time to connect and re-connect with one another while serving our wider community. (Service hours are available for our high schoolers as requested.) If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Joanna (jsamuelson@first-church.org). Hope you can make it ... it is never the same without you!

Laundry Love

“Laundry Love” is an outreach ministry which provides the opportunity for individuals and families of low income to wash their own clothes and bedding, without cost, at a local laundromat.

Our next “Laundry Love” event is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., at the West Land Laundromat in Franklinton. As volunteers, we assist individuals with operating the washers and dryers.

If you are interested or need additional information, please contact Kris Brant (kbrant2408@gmail.com) or Rev. Joanna (jsamuelson@first-church.org) for more details.

Thank you for all the ways that you serve God by serving our community!

Game Night

Friday, February 3, 5:30 p.m.
Parish Hall

Who's got game? We do! Come join us in the Parish Hall for a casual evening of games and fun on Friday, February 3 at 5:30 p.m. Light snacks, lemonade, and popcorn will be provided. Feel free to pack a dinner to bring with you to enjoy before we get started with the games at 6 p.m. Please enter via the Ninth Street door or elevator, which will be unlocked from 5:15- 6:15 p.m. If you arrive after 6:15 p.m., please use the intercom at the Ninth Street door and ring Parish Hall to be buzzed in. All attendees will need to sign-in/out upon entering/exiting the building. We will have a variety of games available but please also bring any games or puzzles you would like to share for the evening. Kids at heart and kids of all ages are welcome! Please register by February 2.

<https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YzJmY2UyNzUtYm-MwZS00NTRmLWE1ZGYtYWY3MjAxM2E5MjI4>

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.

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Global Mission Partner Scotland

The Church of Scotland is experiencing deep change and challenge: restructuring in parish life, merging and closing congregations and ministries, reorganizing the church structures, all of which bring challenges and confusions. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, followed Jesus and led others to also follow, witness and serve faithfully. The Church of Scotland remains thankful for the worldwide family of God with whom it shares life and faith.

The theme of this ecumenical week is “Do Good and Seek Justice” (Isa 1:17). The church gives thanks for its interconnection with the world church. Doing good and seeking justice is part of what it does together with Global Ministries in joint support of Fiona Kendall in Mediterranean Hope.

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commission Hosts January Coffee Hour!

January Coffee Hours are being sponsored by the Commission for Music, Arts and Heritage with January 15 being the Arts Committee, January 22 - Music Committee, and January 29 - Heritage Committee will help with lunch, as a part of the Congregational Meeting. Join us in Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. service!

Keep in Prayer

Members Anne Morganstern; Glenn and Sharon Bardus; Rick Sayre; Gretchen Atkinson; Leslie Boltz; Wendy Reber; Annette McCormick; Lesley Schaab; Larry and Diane Dixon; Rick and Lourdes Henderson; Kay Neffenger; Martha Huey; Bob Davis; Twink Starr; Lola Edwards; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Janice White; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

Family and friends George Ferzli’s father; Lee Wetmore’s daughter, Rhonda and family; Jenny Provenzano’s friend, Lola; Gail and Jim Lowe’s great niece, Ani; Margaret Cipriani’s sister and brother-in-law, Sara and Terry Godwin; Barb Clapham’s friends Bruce and Pat DeLong; Nancy Loy’s friend, Maxey; Tim Ahrens’ friends Janis and Jerome Cripe; Paula Terry-Locke; Margaret Cipriani’s friend, Marilyn Niethammer; Kathy Reed’s cousin, Michael Chambers, and her friend, Sue Pinkerton; Victor John’s parents, Charles and Mary Jane John; Tom Gies’ sister, Monica Depinet; Nancy Mayle; and Martha Huey’s sister, Stephanie Childs.

Those who mourn loved ones Sallie and Karl Danneberger and the Wesner family on the death of their sister-in-law, Rose Wesner; Jan Kevan on the death of her son, Rick Kevan; George Ferzli and family on the death of his mother; Megan Smith, grandson Peregrin Smith Jr. and family on the death of her step-granddaughter and his sister, Sarah; and Phil Armbruster, on the death of his father.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches in Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey. We pray for Global Ministries workers at the Church of Scotland.

We pray for those in California impacted by a series of atmospheric river storms.

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

Church Leadership

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min., M.Div.
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.
Director of Christian Education: Mark S. Williams, [M.Ed.](#)
Interim Organist: Barry Moenter
Interim Choral Director: Jim Gallagher
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, Alexis Wayne
Wedding Coordinators: Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani
Nursery Staff: Miranda Brooks, Shelly Gies, Courtney Palmer

Senior Deacon: Martha Wilson
Senior Deacon-elect: Lynn Wallich
Deacons: Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Tom Kiesel, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, Nan Kreimer, Gail Lowe, James Lowe, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Hank Wilson, Marty Worth

Church Council Leadership

Moderator: Christine Farquhar
Moderator-elect: Greg Halbe
Treasurer: Andy Bensing
Treasurer-elect: James Velo
Secretary: Marty Worth
Secretary-elect:
Board of Trustees
Chairperson: Sue Cook
Trustees: Allen Baker, Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Elizabeth Iannarino, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Judy Smith, Hugh Schultz, Christopher Washington

Commissioners

Administration: Chris Glaros
Administration-elect:
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:
Music, Arts & Heritage: Sandra Mathias
Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Melissa Kulwicki
Members-at-Large: Dayna McCrary and Alyssia Palmer

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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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885
PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741
WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG

