



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 171 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.*

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

- The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *preacher*
- The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *liturgist*
- Dean Hafey, *liturgist*
- Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
- David Hogrefe, *pianist*
- Geoff Dean, *livestream ministry*

*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 48:9)*

PRELUDE

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Dean Hafey

Leader: Blessed be God, Light of the world, bright Morning Star, and Spirit of love.

Please stand as you are able. (indicates congregation standing)*

Leader: For God alone my soul in silence waits;

People: from God comes my salvation.

Leader: God alone is my rock and my salvation,

People: my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

Leader: Put your trust in God always, O people;

People: pour out your hearts before the One who is our refuge.

Leader: For God alone my soul in silence waits;

People: from God comes my salvation.

—from Psalm 62

*OPENING HYMN

Nyland, Finnish folk melody

“O Jesus, I have promised”

John Ernest Bode, 1866



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;
2 O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
3 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee,



be thou for ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be;



I shall not fear the bat - tle, if thou art by my side,
O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
and, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way, if thou wilt be my guide.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.
O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

** When you return to your seat, please find the blue Welcome notebook at the end of the pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor so you may greet them by name.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

During the sermon time, the young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories" with Melissa Kulwicki and Rev. Tim.

Leader: A reading from the Book of Jonah, the third chapter.

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

They bless with their lips, but in their hearts they curse.

For God alone my soul in silence waits; truly there is my hope.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

In God is my safety and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

Put your trust in God always, O people; pour out your hearts before the One who is our refuge.

Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

On the scales they are lighter than a breath, all of them together.

Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

All: 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, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)**. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in fighting human trafficking and gender-based violence at work. The CIW is also recognized for pioneering the design and development of the Worker-driven Social Responsibility paradigm, a worker-led, market-enforced approach to the protection of human rights in corporate supply chains. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN

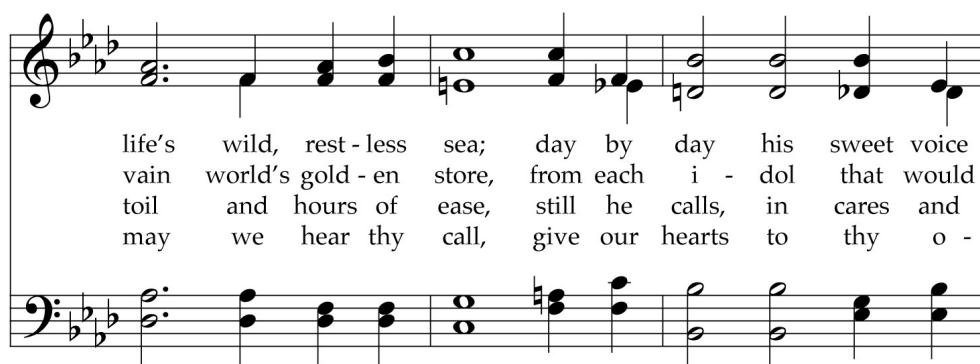
“Jesus calls us”

Galilee, William H. Jude, 1887

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, “Chris - tian, fol - low me.”
keep us, say - ing, “Chris - tian, love me more.”
plea - sures, “Chris - tian, love me more than these.”
be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

COMMUNION
COMMUNION HYMN
"Eat this bread"

Rev. Ahrens
Eat this Bread, Jacques Berthier, 1982

“Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and
nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread;
drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.”

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: "Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst."

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray.

All: 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

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

Christ Be Our Light, Bernadette Farrell, 1987

"Christ, be our light"

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day."

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found peace and grace here and invite you to return often. If you would like more information or have any questions about First Church, please ask one of our pastors or anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.

†Permissions and Copyrights All music in the bulletin is reprinted and livestreamed under OneLicense.net #A-717661. All rights reserved.

2024 NOMINATING SLATE

Officers

Moderator: Greg Halbe

Moderator Elect: Sarah Reed

Treasurer: James Velo

Treasurer Elect: Ramona Moenter

Secretary: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

Secretary Elect: Martha Wilson

Commissioners

Church Stewardship and Growth Commissioner: Janice Taft

Church Stewardship and Growth Commissioner Elect:

Church Vitality Commissioner: Pat Patterson

Church Vitality Commissioner Elect:

Communications and Technology Commissioner: Mike Kennedy

Communications and Technology Commissioner Elect: Stefan Duga

Faith Formation Commissioner: Mariner Taft

Faith Formation Commissioner Elect:

House & Grounds Commissioner: Eric Klintworth

House & Grounds Commissioner Elect:

Justice & Mercy Commissioner: Janet Miller

Justice & Mercy Commissioner Elect:

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner: Jim Griffen

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner Elect:

Personnel Commissioner: David Hogrefe

Personnel Commissioner Elect: Sandra Mathias

At-Large Members

Adult Member At-Large: Jacquelyn Dean

Youth Member At-Large:

Trustees

Co-Chair: selected by Trustees

2-year term: Todd Jacobson

4-Year term: Frank Cook

Deacons

Senior Deacon: Tom Kiesel

Senior Deacon Elect: elected by Deacons

3-year term: Thom Smith

3-year term:

3-year term:

3 year term: Andy Verhage Smith (Substitute)

1-year of a 3 year term: Heather Jones

Nominating Chair

Sarah Reed

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

January 21, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, Jan. 21

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study on 1 Corinthians
(Classroom C)
First Serves (Education Wing)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales
(Parish Hall)
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)
- 4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

Monday, Jan. 22

- 12 Noon Healthy Congregations Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. BREAD Mtg (Parish Hall)
- 7 p.m. Senior Minister Member Advisory
Group (Senior Minister's Office)

Tuesday, Jan. 23

- 7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Zoom)

Thursday, Jan. 25

- 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch
(Winston's Coffee & Waffles)
- 4:30 p.m. Choristers (Choir Rm)
- 6 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Choir Rm)

Friday, Jan. 26

- 12 Noon Faith Mission Dinner Prep & Serve
(Kitchen)

Sunday, Jan. 28

- 10 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 11 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting
(Sanctuary)
- 12 Noon Council Reception (Parish Hall)

**First Church Arts
Choral Evensong
Today at 4 p.m.**

BREAD

BREAD will be holding its first Network meeting of the new year at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 22, in Parish Hall. We will be talking about the research process and opportunities to participate. Please join us, even if you are not a Network member. We will plan on walk-ins but prefer to hear from you beforehand (text 1-240-557-9770). BREAD rises!

Coffee Hour This Week

Following 11 a.m. worship please join us in Parish Hall for Coffee Hour, hosted by BREAD. While you are there, don't forget to pick up your Fair Trade Coffee and Tea.

**The Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 28
One Worship Service at 10 a.m.
Meeting at 11 a.m.**

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.

Stephen Ministry

Each of us has times when we are lonely, grieving, hurt, or in need of care. Our congregation has a group of people skilled in caring for those facing challenges in their lives. These people, called Stephen Ministers, have undergone extensive training to develop and nurture their caring skills. Who might receive care from a Stephen Minister? Care receivers may be hospitalized, grieving the death of a loved one, separated or divorcing, homebound, unemployed, adjusting to the birth of a child, or experiencing many other kinds of life difficulties.

Are you, or is someone you know, going through a time of crisis or challenge? The care of a Stephen Minister may be exactly what's needed. If you have questions about our Stephen Ministry or would like to learn more about how to connect with a Stephen Minister please email stephenministry@first-church.org and one of our Stephen Leaders will be in touch with you.

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 Realm, 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.

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)**. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in fighting human trafficking and gender-based violence at work. The CIW is also recognized for pioneering the design and development of the Worker-driven Social Responsibility paradigm, a worker-led, market-enforced approach to the protection of human rights in corporate supply chains. Thank you for your generosity.

Lunch Bunch

East Market

Thursday, January 25, 11:30 a.m.

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, January 25 at 11:30 a.m. at the East Market, 212 Kelton Avenue, Columbus. The East Market has transformed the historic West Car Barn of the old "Trolley Barn" property into a modern mix of the best local and independent businesses and restaurants. Register by clicking the QR Code below and enjoy a fun and unique dining and shopping experience!



Upcoming Mission Offerings

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| January 21 | Coalition of Immokalee Workers |
| January 28 | The Knight Perry Fund |
| February 4 | The Largest Table |
| February 11 | NAMI |
| February 18 | Good Sam |
| February 25 | Equal Justice Initiative |

Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care please contact Rev. Tim Ahrens tahrens@first-church.org or Rev. Joanna Samuelson jsamuelson@first-church.org.

Keep in Prayer

Members Jim Monsul; Janice Taft; Hugh Schultz; Ann Eidson; Steve Anderson; Dene Barnard; Tim Holt; Connie Johnson; Sarah Ahrens Stadie; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; Marilyn Potts; Dan Axt; Karl Schaab; Rick Sayre; Anne Morganstern; Martha Huey; Twink Starr; Janice White.

Family and friends Gary Glover and Greg Duncan's friend, Barb Wilson; Mary Ann Jacobson's nephew, Peter Poppleton; Diane Kutschbach and Emily Kutschbach Schmitt's aunt and great aunt, Lola, and Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples; Melissa Kulwicki's mother-in-law, Bev Kulwicki; Susie Loik's grandson, Alex Glover and his parents, Kristen & Wes; Evin Hatch's grandmother, Shirley Hatch; Annie Hatch's extended family member, Ranae Walters; Wayne Piper; Hugh Schultz's friend, Barbara Van Riper; Arevena Nirote's sister and brother-in-law, Marlene and Gary Gallion; Melva Fisher's sister, Mary Bittle; Jill Hultin's sister, Gail Nelson; Fran and Bruce Panek's friends, Richard and Beverly Cicenas; Victor John, his parents, Charles and Mary Jane, and sister; Lorraine Quinichett; Martha Huey's sister, Stephanie Childs and cousin, Martha Dieckmann; Melody Leidheiser's niece and husband, Kathy and Mick Clark; Amy Brooks' father, Michael Hamlin; and Karl and Sallie Danneberger's friend, Ron Kendzier.

Those who mourn loved ones Allison Ellenberger, on the death of her father, Bill Ellenberger; David and Rose Kandel and family on the death of David's sister, Sheryl Elizabeth Kandel Loeffler; and Joe and Jenny Provenzano and family on the death of Joe's step-father, Harve Senter.

We keep Stephen Ministers in prayer as they care for our church members.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the people and churches in Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, in Thailand.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min., M.Div.

Designated Minister: Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.

Minister of Music: Joshua Stafford, M.M.

Administrative Manager: Amy Wagner

Communications Manager: Melissa Kulwicki

Office Assistant: Pat Patterson

Business Administrator: Annette McCormick

Building and Grounds Superintendent: Quang Pham

Custodians: Alexis Wayne, Bob O'Brien

Wedding Coordinators: Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani

Nursery Staff: Miranda Brooks, Shelly Gies, Celecia Smith

Commissioned Minister for Social Justice: Tom Brownfield

Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction: Jacquelyn Dean

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Program Coordinator: Gary Glover

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Training Coordinator: Wendy Kennedy

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator: Susie Loik

Senior Deacon: Martha Wilson

Senior Deacon-elect: Tom Kiesel

Deacons: Nan Kreimer, Gail Lowe, James Lowe,

Allison Lowery Palmer, Fran Panek, Joel Mathias, Dayna McCrary,

Matt Myers, Lynn Wallich, Hank Wilson, Martha Worth

CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Moderator: Gregory Halbe

Moderator-elect: Sarah Reed

Treasurer: James Velo

Treasurer-elect: Ramona Moenter

Secretary: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

Secretary-elect: Martha Wilson

Nominating Chair: Sarah Reed

COMMISSIONERS

Administration: Thomas Brownfield

Administration-elect: David Hogrefe

Church Growth: Steve Sterrett

Church Growth-elect:

Church Vitality: Wendy Kennedy

Church Vitality-elect:

Education: Janice Taft

Education-elect: Mariner Taft

House & Grounds: Mike Kennedy

House & Grounds-elect: Eric Klintworth

Justice & Mercy: Kris Brant

Justice & Mercy-elect: Janet Miller

Music, Arts & Heritage: Melissa Kulwicki

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Jim Griffin

Members-at-Large: Jacquelyn Dean

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Sue Cook

Trustees: Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Greg Halbe, Elizabeth Iannarino, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Melody Leidheiser, Janet Miller, Judy Smith, (Secretary), Hugh Schultz

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



*Bulletins are printed on recycled paper with a minimum 50% post-consumer content.
All music in the bulletin is reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717661. All rights reserved.
Bulletins and audio podcasts of services are available on the website for each week:
www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx*

