



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



EASTER DAY  
WORSHIP AT 8:45 & 11 A.M.  
MARCH 31, 2024

## CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!

Welcome to Easter Worship at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio. Thank you for joining us today – whether in-person or via Livestream.

This Easter is special for me. It marks my 25th and final Easter with you as your Senior Minister at First Church. While the end of my time among you will not arrive until October 20, this Day of Resurrection fills me with extra joy as we celebrate the Resurrection Joy of our faith. On this day, Easter 2024, we join in the most beautiful worship service of all 52 Sunday celebrations! It is The Day of Resurrection!

First Church continues to be a growing and exciting congregation in the heart of the capital city. We are an abolitionist congregation. Since 1852, we have served Christ with joy, passion, love, and justice in heart of the Capital City. With more than 1,450 adults, children, and youth in our church family, we are excited about the years ahead as we seek to be faithful servants of our Risen Lord!

We feel God's love alive in our church fellowship. We hope you do too! It is beautiful to behold. Thanks be to God!

All that we do here is centered in God's love and in the power of God's Resurrection in Jesus Christ. We know Christ is raised because we witness resurrection all around us every day. We see resurrection in the faces, words and lives of our children at church when they sing, dance, smile, and share with us. We see resurrection when, in spite of the seemingly impossible odds we face battling illnesses and overcoming suffering and grief, we walk in the light of God's love once again. We see resurrection in the faces of those who battle through hardship and peril and find their strength to stand and walk again. All of these resurrections are "physical," yet all of them are spiritual, as well. If Christ is not raised, then how do his people continue to rise and walk in the light of His faith, hope and love?

Today, I lift up two blessed people who embody Resurrection – Margaret Ruth Myers and Elaine Borling. Each shines God's light, life, and love. Each will carry the light of Christ today, Maggie at 8:45 a.m. and Elaine at 11 a.m. Thanks be to God for Maggie and Elaine.

Beyond Easter, we are here for you all the other days of the year.

First, join us each week in our life together as we seek to do justice in our walk with God in the heart of Columbus. Bring your friends, family, children and grandchildren to serve others, to receive the musical gifts of concerts and to grow in educational opportunities, and while you are here, visit The Washington Gladden Social Justice Park – the first Social Justice Park in America – located on the corner of Cleveland Avenue and Broad Street.

Second, members and friend are invited to join with us Sunday, April 7, as we explore our shared history as First Church and as people of faith with Dr. Emlyn Ott in a Healthy Congregations History Workshop from 12:15 - 2:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Third, mark your calendar and plan to come to the Spring Retreat on Friday, April 26 through Sunday, April 28 at Camp Templed Hills in Belleville, Ohio. This retreat will be our last ever at Templed Hills as the Heartland Conference will be selling it. We are calling this "One Last Time in The Hills." Don't miss it. Sign-up in the next two weeks.

Fourth, join in our justice and mercy mission—locally, nationally, and around the globe. There is room for you to collaborate with our members in Good Samaritan, care for our unhoused friends living around our church, The Largest Table Wednesday lunches downtown, and at Friends of the Homeless where we serve our neighbors. Each Christmas, we host Bethlehem on Broad Street, opening our doors and our hearts to the lost and the lonely in our beloved city. We do the work of justice through the B.R.E.A.D. organization. Mark your calendar and join us Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30 p.m. for our 2024 Nehemiah Action at the Celeste Center on the Ohio State Fairgrounds. Join 40 other interfaith congregations as together we work for justice in policing reform, street violence, affordable housing and Environmental Justice. See one of our staff today to discover how you can get involved.

Finally, discover the many offerings for Bible and Book Studies, Stephen Ministry, Care Ministry and Music Ministry offerings. We have many opportunities to gain experience in faith here at First Church. We long for you to join us as we grow together.

For 22 ½ years, First Church has been an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ—welcoming all God’s children with an extravagant welcome of love in Christ.

If you are seeking God’s love in your life, please come and grow in your faith with us. If you call First Church “home” but have been away for a long time, welcome home. We have missed you and we are delighted you are here. Come and share with us a 365-day experience once again.

Today we begin the Great Fifty Days of Easter. Join us on the journey from Easter to Pentecost and beyond. May God’s resurrection joy touch your heart and mind today and all the days of your life.

I look forward to serving you faithfully until I complete my 25 years among you later this year.

Love to you in the Spirit of the Risen Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Ahrens". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

The Reverend Dr. Tim Ahrens, *Senior Minister*

## 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. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *co-celebrant and preacher*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *co-celebrant and liturgist*

Jacquelyn Dean, *liturgist at 8:45 a.m. service*

Jonathan Miller, *liturgist at 11 a.m. service*

Greg Duncan, *verger*

Ethan Murray, *crucifer at 8:45 a.m. service*

Malcolm Gillies, *crucifer at 11 a.m. service*

Maggie Myers, *Christ candle bearer at 8:45 a.m. service*

Elaine Borling, *Christ candle bearer at 11 a.m. service*

Joshua Stafford, *director and organist*

Jamie Bobb, *organist*

Peter Murray, *livestream ministry team member at 8:45 a.m. service*

Aran Cunningham, *livestream ministry team member at 11 a.m. service*

### FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

*Soprano:* Cindy Adcock, Marti Baumer, Candy Cummings, Sharon Ferguson, Rose Kandel, Ramona Moenter, Emily Rigglin, Megan Smith, Susan Pusecker, Lissa Wade

*Alto:* Cari Brackett, Allison Ellenberger, Marcy Essig, Jennifer Fry, Cheryl Hoskinson, Nancy Loy, SallyJane Mathias, Sandra Mathias, Judy Smith, Jan Wade

*Tenor:* Leigh Briggs, Jim Griffin, Greg Halbe, Sebastian Kulwicki, Aidan Young

*Bass:* Al Adcock, Jack Drake, Stefan Duga, Ronald Jenkins, Scott Johnson, Mike Kennedy, Barry Moenter, Robert Moreen

### EASTER INSTRUMENTALISTS

*Trumpets:* Tony Philipp, William Bailey

*Horn:* Scott Warburton

*Trombone:* Jessica Sneeringer

*Bass Trombone:* Todd Cunningham

*Timpani:* Susan Powell

# ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

*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

Solemn Entry

Richard Strauss, 1909

## INTROIT

Joseph Noyon, arr. Gerre Hancock, 1991

*Christus Vincit*

*Christus vincit,  
Christus regnat,  
Christus imperat!  
Gloria Patri, et Filio,  
et Spiritui Sancto.  
Sicut erat in principio,  
et nunc, et semper,  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.*

Christ has conquered,  
Christ our sovereign,  
Christ reigns forevermore!  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and forevermore,  
world without end. Amen.

## ENTER TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

Leader: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

**People: Jesus Christ, our light, is risen!**

Leader: Sound the trumpet of salvation!

**People: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,**

**All: Christ has conquered!**

**Glory fills you!**

**Night vanished forever!**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN  
"Jesus Christ is risen today"

*Easter Hymn*  
Lyra Davidica, 1708

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured,  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,  
un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.  
praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Now a - bove the sky he's King,  
Praise our God, ye heaven - ly host,

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing.  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

\*LITANY OF EASTER JOY  
Hippolytus of Rome, 3<sup>rd</sup> c.

8:45 – The Rev. Joanna Samuelson  
11 – Dr. Ahrens

Leader: The shadows seized a body:  
**All: and found it was God.**  
Leader: They reached for earth:  
**All: and what they held was heaven.**  
**Pulpit Side: They took what they could see: it was what no one sees.**  
**Lectern Side: Where is death's goad? Where is the shadow's victory?**  
**All: Christ is risen:**  
Leader: the world below is in ruins.  
**All: Christ is risen:**  
**Lectern Side: the spirits of evil are fallen.**  
**Pulpit Side: the angels of God are rejoicing.**  
**All: Christ is risen:**  
Leader: the tombs are void of their dead.  
**All: Christ has indeed arisen from the dead:**  
Leader: the first of those who sleep.  
**All: Glory and power are Christ's forever and ever. Amen.**

\*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

8:45 – Dr. Ahrens  
11 – Rev. 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

*After children's time, the children will return to sit with their families. A fully-staffed childcare ministry is provided during each Sunday Morning Worship Service and Education Hour for infants through age four. This ministry is located in the nursery, Classroom A on the first floor of the Education Wing.*

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 10:34-43

8:45 – Jacquelyn Dean

Leader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the tenth chapter.

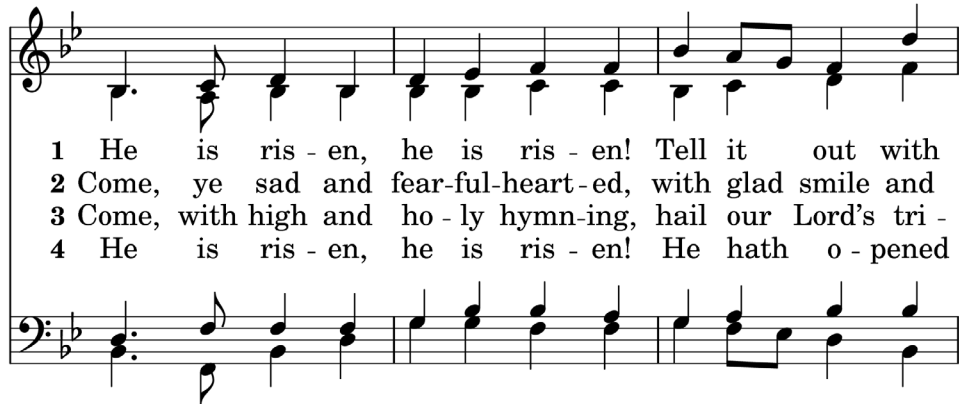
11 – Jonathan Miller

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

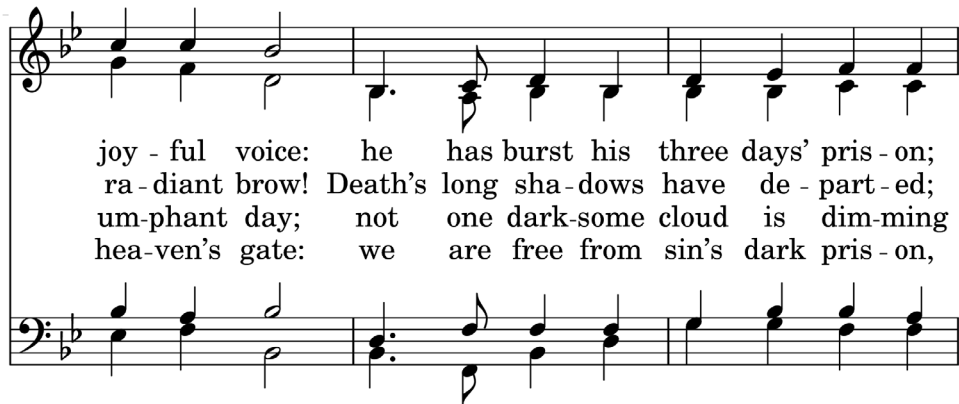
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*THE GOSPEL HYMN  
"He is risen, he is risen!"

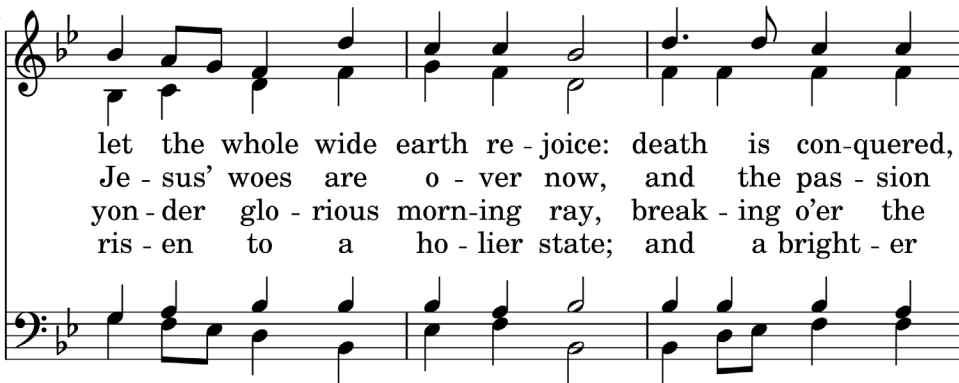
*Unser herrscher*, Joachim Neander, 1680  
Cecil Francis Alexander, 1846



1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with  
2 Come, ye sad and fear-ful-heart-ed, with glad smile and  
3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn-ing, hail our Lord's tri -  
4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened



joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;  
ra - diant brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;  
um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming  
hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,



let the whole wide earth re - jice: death is con - quered,  
Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion  
yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, break - ing o'er the  
ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er



we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.  
that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.  
pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.  
Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.



*Please remain standing for the Easter Gospel.*

\*THE EASTER GOSPEL

Mark 16:1-8

Rev. Samuelson

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

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

EASTER MEDITATION

"Jesus and Rising, Now and Forever"

Dr. Ahrens

*Final sermon in the series entitled "Jesus"*

*A period of silence follows.*

EASTER PRAYER

Rev. Samuelson

Written by The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson,

General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ

God of New Life, in the light of this Resurrection Sunday, we are reminded that seasons change, and new life is ever-emerging among us.

Your love is seen in the manifestation of the sacredness of springtime, the joy bursting forth in the leaves, the pouring of new life in the blossoms, and the vibrant array of colors that every living thing displays. The colors of the earth reflect the light of Your love. For this beauty, O God, we are thankful.

The beauty of the earth runs through us and is evident as we see You in every face.

We extend Your love to our neighbors. The joy of living surrounds us. We hear You beckoning us to be love and to walk in Your love. Teach us to love each other more. Help us to be light in the world, dispelling hatred and fear. We are love. For this love, we are thankful, O God.

We pray for the children. We give thanks for the ways in which their lives teach and guide us. We pray for their care. We pray that the love we have for them will ensure they are provided for and never in need. We pray that they will experience the goodness of our love for them. For the presence of the children in our lives, we are thankful.

We give thanks for the colorful diversity we share as one people, created in Your image.

We thank You for this everlasting love on this Easter Sunday and every day.

**All: We are thankful, O God. Amen.**

## THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code, or visit [www:first-church.org/give](http://www:first-church.org/give)



### MISSION INVITATION

Dr. Ahrens

Cash and designated checks go to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, which joins our hearts with God by providing decisive aid when disaster strikes, and by helping refugees rebuild their lives. Gifts strengthen struggling communities with basics like education, health care, tools, seeds, and wells. Thank you for your generosity.

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Charles-Marie Widor, 1876

“*Surrexit a mortuis*,” Op. 23, No. 3

*Surrexit a mortuis Christus Dei Filius, Pastor bonus,  
Pastor qui animam pro grege suo posuit.  
Pascha nostrum immolatus est Christus. Alleluia.*

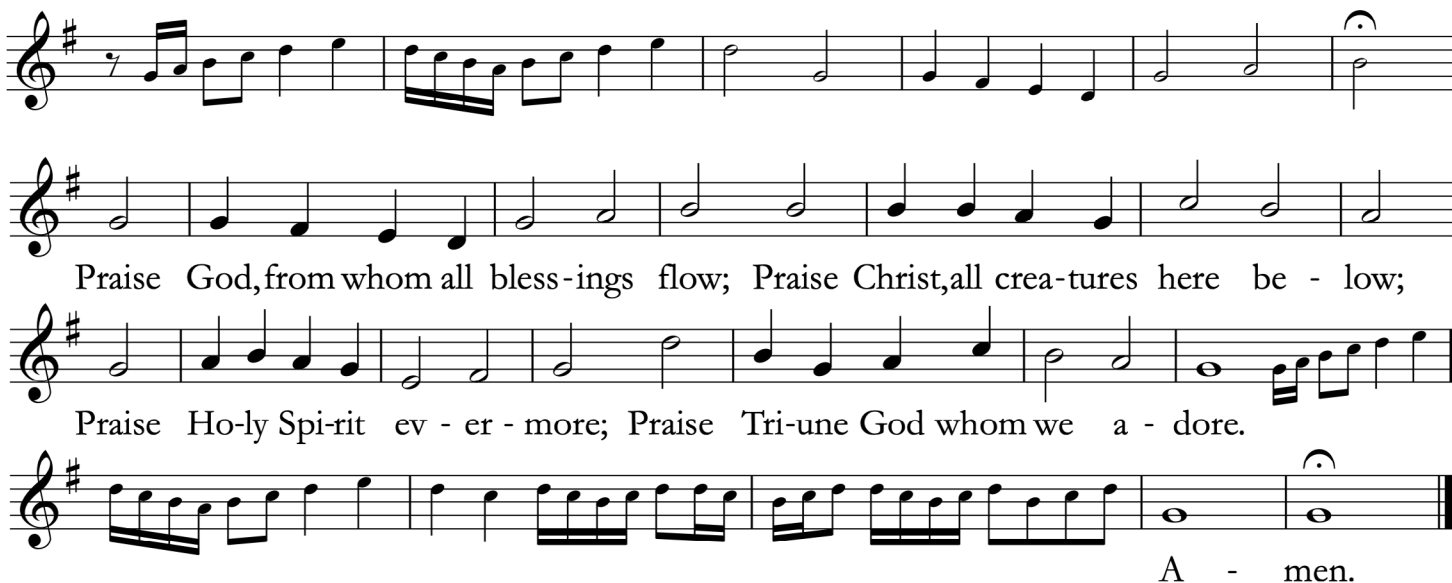
He rose from the dead, Christ, the Son of God, the Good Shepherd,  
the Shepherd who for his flock laid down his life.  
A victim, the Christ, sacrificed for us. Alleluia.

### \*PRESENTATION HYMN

*Old 100th*

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1953



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here be - low;  
Praise Ho-ly Spi-rit ev - er - more; Praise Tri-une God whom we a - dore.  
A - men.

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.*

### \*INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

### \*SURSUM CORDA

*Plainsong*

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a single system, all in a G-clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Leader and the second and third staves are for the People. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise."

### \*COMMUNION PRAYER

Revs. Ahrens and Samuelson

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory.

We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. And now we give you thanks for the hope to which you call us in your Son, that following in the faith of all your saints, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons, daughters, and all children of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
 might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
 Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The congregation may be seated.*

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

**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.**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

## SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*Please come forward as directed by the deacons to receive the common elements for communion.  
Receive the bread and grape juice at one of the stations. You are invited to consume the elements as you receive them.  
Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the tray. Place empty cups in the baskets on the tables by the transepts.  
If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home.*

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

My Master from a Garden Rose

Eleanor Daley, 2001  
Gordon Ellsworth Young, 1983

*This anthem is offered today in memory of Sheryl Loeffler (1949-2024),  
sister of David Kandel, who commissioned this work.*

My Master in a garden lay, perfumed with spices rare,  
for tender hands had laid him there to rest amidst the roses.

'Twas on a cross they laid him bare, and pierced his hands with nails,  
that we poor men might live again and be with him in glory. Alleluia.

My master from a garden rose to go for us to heav'n,  
and he will come and take us there, to be with him forever. Alleluia. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: 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  
"The strife is o'er"

*Victory*, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1591  
Latin hymn, c. 1695; trans. Francis Pott, 1861

Refrain (before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; the vic - to -  
2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped; Christ ris - es  
4 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
le - gions hath dis - persed: let shouts of ho - ly  
glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our  
sting thy ser - vants free, that we may live, and

has be - gun.  
joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
ris - en Head!  
sing to thee:

\*EASTER BENEDICTION

Dr. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

*Grand choeur dialogué*

Eugène Gigout, 1881

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

## THE CONGREGATION, COUNCIL, AND STAFF

### WISH YOU A BLESSED EASTER!

*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 anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.*

#### † GREETING AT THE EXITS

Dr. Ahrens — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. Samuelson — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Ms. Kulwicki — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

#### ON THE COVER

*The Ascended Christ*

Top panel of the Jeffrey Window, Nicola D'Ascenzo Studios, Philadelphia, PA, 1931

## THE EASTER DEDICATIONS

*The list is headed by the names and dates of those senior ministers  
who served this church with distinction and devotion.*

William H. Marble 1852–1856	Irving Maurer 1918–1924
John M. Steele 1856–1857	McIllyar H. Lichliter 1924–1942
Henry B. Elliott 1858–1860	Boynton Merrill 1943–1959
Edward P. Goodwin 1860–1867	Chalmers Coe 1960–1983
George W. Phillips 1868–1871	Washington Gladden 1882–1918
Robert G. Hutchins 1872–1882	Dale B. Rosenberger 1985–1002
Washington Gladden 1882–1918	Robert Tschanen-Moran 1993–1998
Carl S. Patton 1911–1917	Timothy C. Ahrens 2000–present

*We give thanks for all the associate ministers and all staff members  
through the years who have served with distinction and devotion.*

With grateful appreciation for our Minister of Music and Organist by Cynthia and Albert Adcock

In memory of Jon Mac Anderson by Deb Anderson

In memory of my sister, Diana Moser by Kathryn Bamberger

In honor of my First Church family by G. Dene Barnard

In memory of Baumer Family Members by Marti Baumer

In memory of our parents, Maxine and Bill Gilson and Irene and Al Braverman by Nancy Gilson Braverman

In gratitude for our church's beautiful music by Nancy Gilson Braverman

In memory of parents, William and Mae Johannes and brother, Bill Johannes by Barbara Clapham

In honor of Dene Barnard by Barbara Clapham

In celebration of our children and grandchildren by Bev and Bert Cook

In celebration of Tim Ahrens by Janice and Ron Cook

With gratitude to all of the musicians who have served First Church throughout our history  
by Todd and Catherine Cunningham

In memory of MaryLea Davis and Paul and Charlotte Jenkins by William Davis and Ronald Jenkins

In memory of my wife, Kathleen Dean, and my parents, Ruth and Ralph Dean by Geoffrey Dean

In memory of my parents, Arlene and Bill Ellenberger by Allison Ellenberger

In honor of Joshua Stafford: thank you for such beautiful music, by Melva Fisher

In memory of my grandfather, William Thomas Garrison, who loved to sing, by Melva Fisher

In honor of office staff and volunteers by Jim and Carol Gallagher

In honor of all musicians by Jim and Carol Gallagher

In honor of The Rev. Earl Fritz by the Fritz Family

In memory of my father, Daniel D. Harkins by Dan Harkins

In memory of my brother, Charles Hoskinson, by Cheryl Hoskinson

In memory of Joanne Morse, Betsy Zahn, Lola Edwards, Arlene Reynolds, Paul Flocken, and Leona Schaefer  
by Cheryl Hoskinson

In memory of my father, Harvey Kiesel, by Tom Kiesel

In memory of Bill Kutschbach, Sr., Suzanne H. Kutschbach, Janice Kutschbach, Dorothy Stevens Humphries,  
Vicky Kutschbach, and Lois Young by Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Kutschbach

In celebration of our children and grandchildren by Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Kutschbach

In memory of Georgia Swinger and Jenkins Smith by Pat Liebchen

In memory of my father, The Rev. Charles Livingston, and in honor of my mother, Mrs. Mildred Livingston,  
by Nancy Livingston



In memory of my mother, Beulah McCormick, by Annette McCormick  
In loving memory of Rollie and Marilyn Rausch, and Elmer, Evelyn, and Kevin Moenter  
by Barry and Ramona Moenter  
In celebration of the Livestream Team that allows me to be a part of them by Pat Patterson  
In memory of Emma Jean and Bill Petry by Richard Petry  
In honor of the Potts Family and to the glory of God by Marilyn Potts  
In memory of the Shoemaker Family and to the glory of Jesus Christ by Marilyn Potts  
In celebration of music at First Church, all those who sing in the choirs, ring handbells, play instruments and  
keyboards, especially our outstanding organists, past and present, by Marti and Rob Rideout  
In memory of Arlene Flocken Reynolds, Milton H. Flocken, Paul D. Flocken, and John V. Reynolds,  
by Annette Salser and Lou Flocken  
In memory of our fathers, Rev. Robert D. Samuelson and Robert E. Gillies, and in honor of our mothers, Deborah  
Samuelson Arner and Marie W. Gillies, by The Samuelson / Gillies family  
In memory of Helen and Henry Wilson, Veronica and James Doran, Del Pugh, and Rob Roberts,  
by Lesley and Karl Schaab  
In honor of my mother, Lorene K. Ahrens by Susan Sitler and Tim Ahrens  
In memory of Janice's family, Paul, Doris, and Patty Davison by Mariner, Janice, and Doug Taft  
In memory of Dale Brookins Wade, Robert and Louise Wade, Paul and Adelia Schwiebert, and John T. Doutt, Sr.  
by Jan Wade  
In honor of Marti Rideout by Jan Wade  
In memory of our parents and grandparents, Edward and Betty Ryan, and Charles and Julia Wagner,  
by Amy, Bill, Katie, and Charles Wagner  
In memory of my sister, my brother, and my parents by Lynn Wallich  
In memory of loved ones by Marty and Gerry Worth  
In memory of Norma Young and Rosa Young by Terri Young

# 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, Bill McCabe

**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:** Tom Kiesel

**Deacons:** Allen Baker, Heather Jones, Brian Kemp, Nan Kreimer, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Fran Panek, Andy Smith Verhage, Thom Smith, Lynn Wallich, 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

**Church Stewardship and Church Growth:** Janice Taft

**Church Stewardship and Church Growth-elect:**

**Church Vitality:** Pat Patterson

**Church Vitality-elect:**

**Communications and Technology Commission:** Mike Kennedy

**Communications and Technology Commission-elect:** Stefan Duga

**Faith Formation Commission:** Mariner Taft

**Faith Formation Commission-elect:** Cami Curren

**House & Grounds:** Eric Klintworth

**House & Grounds-elect:**

**Justice & Mercy:** Janet Miller

**Justice & Mercy-elect:**

**Music, Arts & Heritage:** Jim Griffin

**Music, Arts & Heritage-elect:** Cheryl Hoskinson

**Members-at-Large:** Jacquelyn Dean

**Personnel:** David Hogrefe

**Personnel-elect:** Sandra Mathias

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Chairperson:** Frank Cook

**Trustees:** David Holt (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  
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