WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

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.

Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Sharing and Passing of the Peace

Rev. Becky David and Rev. Joanna Samuelson

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

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

*Opening Prayer Rev. Samuelson

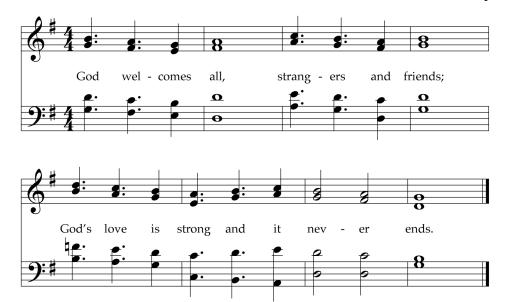
Leader: God of Light and Love,

People: help us this day to worship you

with all of our hearts, minds, and bodies. Shower us with the grace of your Spirit

that we might joyfully receive

the message you have for us today. Amen.



Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Rev. David

Leader: God calls us to speak the truth,

even when it is difficult to others but also to ourselves.

Confessing our sin in prayer,

We dare to speak the truth about ourselves to God,

Who desires to deliver us and to cast out fear.

People: God of life,

We admit to you and to each other

That we have not always lived lives of love.

We have lost patience and been rude.

We have been irritable and insisted on our own way.

We have even let love end.

Forgive us and heal us dear God,

Through Jesus Christ, your love incarnate. Amen.

Time of silent prayer

Leader: Though we know only in part, we are fully known to God.

People: By the grace of Christ, God forgives us in love,

And calls us to abide in faith, in hope, and in love.

Children's Time Melissa Kulwicki

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

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jeremiah 1:4-10 Kelly Dodd

Leader: A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah, the first chapter.

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy,'

for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,

to pluck up and to pull down,

to destroy and to overthrow,

to build and to plant."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 71:1-6 Kelly Dodd

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of refuge,

a strong fortress to save me,

for you are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

For you, O Lord, are my hope,

my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

From my birth I have leaned upon you,

my protector since my mother's womb.

My praise is continually of you.

Luke 4:21-30 Rev. David

Leader: A reading from the gospel according to Luke, the fourth chapter.

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' "And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

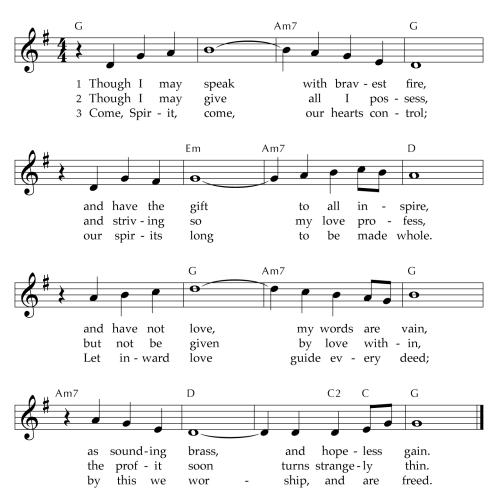
People: Thanks be to God.

Reflection Rev. David

Responding

Hymn of Preparation "Though I may speak"

Gift of Love, English folk melody Hal H. Hopson, 1972



Prayers of the People Rev. Samuelson

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 Depart to Serve:



Mission Invitation Rev. Samuelson

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Good Samaritan Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to First Church in need. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Prayer of Dedication Rev. Samuelson

All: Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.

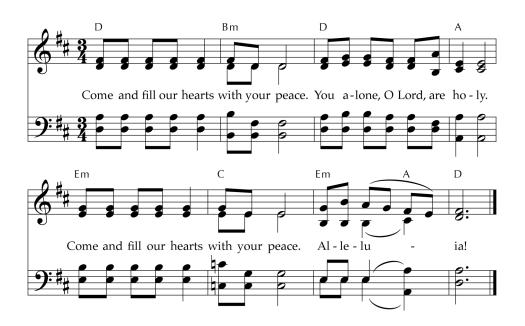
Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.

And let the called and redeemed of God say, "Amen."

COMMUNION Revs. David and Samuelson

Communion Hymn "Come and fill our hearts"

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982 Jacques Berthier, 1982



Post-Communion Prayer

Rev. David

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.

SENDING

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader Let us depart with a heart to serve.

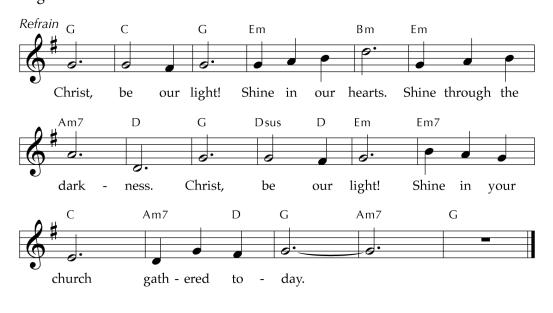
People: Thanks be to God.

*Benediction Rev. David

*Closing Hymn

Bernadette Farrell, 1993

"Christ, be our light"



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.

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Leadership in Today's liturgy
The Rev. Becky David, preacher
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, worship leader
Kelly Dodd, liturgist
Melissa Kulwicki, worship leader
David Hogrefe, pianist
Geoffrey Dean, livestream ministry



This Week at First Church

Sunday, February 2

9 a.m. Morning Prayer and Holy Communion

(Parish Hall)

10 a.m. Sunday School (Classrooms B, E & F)

Parent Conversations (Adult Library)

11 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

12 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)

Monday, February 3

12 Noon Card Care Ministry (Fanning Rm)

6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)

7 p.m. House & Grounds Commission Mtg

(Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, February 4

4 p.m. Church Vitality Commission Mtg (Zoom)

7 p.m. Communications & Technology Mtg (Zoom)

Justice & Mercy Commission Mtg (Zoom)

Personnel Commission Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 5

9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day (GS Office)

12:15 p.m. Music at Midday (Sanctuary)

6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg (Fanning Rm)

7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, February 6

4:30 p.m Choristers (Music Activities Rm) 6 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Rm) 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir (Choir Rm)

Saturday, February 8

10 a.m. Family Organ Day (Sanctuary) 10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Adult Library)

Sunday, February 9

9 a.m Morning Prayer and Holy Communion

(Parish Hall)

10 a.m. The Bible in Context (Classroom C)

Sunday School (Classrooms B, E & F)

Parent Conversations (Adult Library)

11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

February 2, 2025

Family Organ Day Saturday, February 8 at 10 a.m.

Join First Church Arts for the 2nd annual Family Organ Day on Saturday, February 8 starting at 10 a.m.: an opportunity for the young and young-at-heart to meet the two magnificent pipe organs at First Church!

The morning includes:

- A Short, Family-Friendly Concert
- An Explanation and Demonstration of the Organs
- A Chance to Play the Organs!

This is a great opportunity for any children interested in music, and especially piano students, to experience the thrill of hearing and playing a pipe organ! First Church is unique in being home to two world-class organs: a Kimball from 1931 and a Beckerath from 1972. There is no charge for this event.

All are welcome - please reach out to us if you or your child(ren) need any accommodations!

Music at Midday Qin Ying Tan, harpsichord, Guillermo Salas-Suárez, violin Wednesday, February 5, 12:15 p.m.

Take a break from the busy workweek and experience an unforgettable concert of Baroque brilliance with acclaimed violinist Guillermo Salas-Suárez and harpsichordist Dr. Qin Ying Tan. Don't miss this extraordinary showcase of talent, artistry, and musical heritage.

Winter Sunday Stories Readers Needed

Our 2025 children's story time schedule is wide open for new and returning guest readers! Readers are needed for both 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., but the greatest need is for 9 a.m., which is most attended by children. Please contact Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org.

Adult Education Calling New Programs and Leaders

Do you have a topic, expertise or talent you'd like to share with fellow members? If so, let's talk! We are planning new presentations for Adult Education and welcome new ideas! If you have something you're willing to share or have an idea of something you'd like to see, please contact Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org.

First Church Book Club:

Master Slave, Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom Wednesday, February 5 at 7 P.M. on Zoom

Come enjoy lively conversation and fellowship with the First Church Book Club.

On Wednesday, February 5, Jean Lebold will lead a discussion of Ilyon Woo's *Master Slave, Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom*, winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Biography. It's the true story of enslaved couple Ellen and William Craft and their escape from Macon, Georgia in 1848. Light-skinned Ellen disguises herself as a disabled white gentleman with William posing as "his" manservant. They exploit assumptions about race, class and disability. A remarkable true story of daring, determination, disguise, and love.

Questions? Want to receive book club emails? Please call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742

Keep in Prayer

Members Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Allison Lowery Palmer; Mike Weddle; Elaine Warren; Victor John; Margot Connor and John Anderson; Francille Firebaugh; Pauline Fritz; Nancy Burba; Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter; Carol Lowy; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt; Anne Morganstern; Martha Huey; and Janice White.

Family and friends Joanna Samuelson and family's neighbor, Donna Hammond; Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers; Michael Russell's friend, Donald Featheroft; BOBS volunteers, John Holly and Sandy Waters-Holly; Shelly Gies' brother, Mike Simms; Victor John's father, Charles John and mother, Mary Jane John; Amy Wagner's friends Bill Kelley and Lee Gatton; Michael Russell's friend, Teresa Elliott; Amanda Butler's aunt, Hattie Coatney; Jennifer Provenzano's friend, Anita Wright; Pat Patterson's son, Jay Patterson, and brother, Dan Stone; Bob and Lorraine Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; Melva Fisher's daughter, Susan Wood; Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick; Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples; Arevena Nirote's sister and brother-in-law, Marlene and Gary Gallion; and Fran and Bruce Panek's friends, Richard and Beverly Cicenas.

Those who mourn Sheldon, Becky, Mariner, Janice and their family on the death of their son, Ashley Taft; the family and friends of Anne Morganstern; the family and friends of Jan Kevan; Janet Axt on the death of her mother, Alice Paugh; David Holt on the death of his uncle, James Holt; David Hogrefe and family on the death of his mother, Linda Hogrefe; Sebastian Kulwicki and the Levert family on the death of Sebastian's chess coach Ernest Levert Jr.; Todd and Aran Cunningham's family friends, the Baturin family on the death of Philip Baturin; family and friends of Bernard (Bernie) Martin.

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 Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, and Tunisia. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Student Christian Movement of India.

2024 Giving Statements

Please keep an eye on your email for 2024 giving statements; please check your junk or spam folders if you do not see the email. If you have any questions please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@first-church.org.

Upcoming Missions

February 2 Good Samaritan February 9 Gladden House February 16 Deep Griha February 23 ACLU

Church Leadership

Interim Senior Minister: Rev. Becky David, M.Div. Designated Minister: Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.

Minister of Music: Joshua Stafford, M.M.

Interim Director of Faith Formation: Leslie Fulford

Administrative Manager: Amy Wagner Communications Manager: Melissa Kulwicki

Office Assistant: Pat Patterson

Business Administrator: Annette McCormick

Maintenance: Mike Sharrock

Custodians: Alexis Wayne, Bill McCabe, Bob O'Brien

Handbell Director: Jennifer Fry

Wedding Coordinators: Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret

Cipriani, Denise Vogt

Nursery Staff: Miranda Brooks, Shelly Gies, Celecia Smith Commissioned Minister for Social Justice: Tom Brownfield

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Chairperson: Frank Cook

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

Hugh Schultz

CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP Moderator: Gregory Halbe Moderator-elect: Sarah Reed Treasurer: James Velo

Treasurer-elect: Ramona Moenter Secretary: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

Secretary-elect: Amanda Butler Nominating Chair: Sarah Reed

COMMISSIONERS

Church Stewardship and Church Growth: Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction: 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: MarinerTaft Faith Formation Commission-elect: Cami Curren

House & Grounds: Eric Klintworth

House & Grounds-elect: Justice & Mercy: Janet Miller Justice & Mercy-elect: Jim Lowe Music, Arts & Heritage: Jim Griffin

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Cheryl Hoskinson

Member-at-Large: Jacquelyn Dean Personnel: David Hogrefe Personnel-elect: Sandra Mathias

Youth Member-at-Large: Sebastian Kulwicki

FIRST CHURCH IS A FAITH COMMUNITY

† Called together by God, the Creator, Redeemer, 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.

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.

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



