



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT TEN
DECEMBER 28, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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.

VOLUNTARY

Noël Suisse - Grand jeu et duo

Louis-Claude Daquin, 1757

Noël "Étranger" sur les jeux d'Anches, sans tremblant et en Duo

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Philip Armbruster

Leader: The baby has come! We welcome Christ this day,
For we know that nothing will ever be the same.

People: Hallelujah! A new day has dawned, and the Anointed One has arrived!
We lift our voices with all creation to praise God!

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

*Leader: Our God is doing a new thing in the world and in our lives,
We offer our attention, our affection, and our hearts to You.

People: Hallelujah! A new day has dawned, and the Anointed One has arrived!
We sing praises to God, who has come to dwell among us.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*OPENING HYMN

"Go tell it on the mountain"

Go Tell It, African American spiritual

African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by the night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through-out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. young chang

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 we many greet one another by name.*

INVOCATION

Rev. young chang

Leader: Let us Pray:

Holy One, into a world of power, of wealth, of oppression and greed,
A miracle of mercy, justice, and humility is born. You come to show us
a different way to be, how to love, how to care, how to support, protect, and empower.

**People: We turn to you, O Holy One, our eyes shining with awe,
our mouths full of wonder at your presence among us.**

**We surrender our distractions, our idols,
our anxieties and our resentments to You.**

**Show us your way, connect us to one another,
and keep us in community and generosity with one another and with you.**

In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 2:1018

Mr. Armbruster

Leader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews, the second chapter.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. 16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

For Women's Christmas

You have looked
at so many doors
with longing,
wondering if your life
lay on the other side.

For today,
choose the door
that opens
to the inside.

Travel the most ancient way
of all:
the path that leads you
to the center
of your life.

No map
but the one
you make yourself.

No provision
but what you already carry
and the grace that comes
to those who walk
the pilgrim's way.

Speak this blessing
as you set out
and watch how
your rhythm slows,
the cadence of the road
drawing you into the pace
that is your own.

Eat when hungry.
Rest when tired.
Listen to your dreaming.
Welcome detours
as doors deeper in.

Pray for protection.
Ask for guidance.
Offer gladness
for the gifts that come,
and then
let them go.

Do not expect
to return
by the same road.
Home is always
by another way,
and you will know it
not by the light
that waits for you
but by the star
that blazes inside you,
telling you
where you are
is holy
and you are welcome
here.

*HYMN

"O sleep now, holy baby"

A la ru, Hispanic folk song

tr. John Donald Robb, 1954



1. O sleep now, ho - ly ba-by, with your
2. You need not fear King He-rod, he will



head a - gainst my breast; _____ mean-while the pangs of my sor - row are
bring no harm to you; _____ so rest in the arms of your mo - ther who



soothed and put to rest. A la ru, a la mè, a la ru, a la
sings you a la ru.



mè, a la ru, a la mè a la ru, a la ru, a la mè.

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

Rev. young chang

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, the third chapter.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. young chang

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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. young chang

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Sandy Hook Promise**, established in part to educate and train people to know the signs of gun violence before it happens. Financial support of Sandy Hook allows the organization to continue educating on gun safety and expanding their no-cost Know the Signs program to more schools and communities. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN
"In the bleak midwinter"

Cranham, Gustav Holst, 1906
Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.

1 In the bleak mid-win - ter, frost - y wind made moan;
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;
4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*PRESENTATION CAROL
"What child is this," v. 3

Greensleeves, English Ballad, 16th c.
William Chatterton Dix, 1871

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary.

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN

"Good Christian friends, rejoice"

In dulci jubilo, German folk tune, 14th c.

Medieval Latin, tr. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853

1. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice With heart, and soul, and voice;
 2. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice With heart, and soul, and voice;
 3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice With heart, and soul, and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, And He is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened heav - en's door, And we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all To gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

BENEDICTION

Rev. young chang

VOLUNTARY

"God rest you merry, gentlemen"

William Lloyd Webber, 1961

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.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in celebration of their 63rd wedding anniversary by Sheldon and Becky Taft.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. young chang — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. jessica young chang, *preacher*

Philip Armbruster, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Joshua Stafford, *organist*

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Interim Senior Minister: Rev. Becky David, M.Div.

Interim Associate Minister: Rev. Jessica Young Chang, 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

Building and Grounds Superintendent: Kevin Salem

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

Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction: Jacquelyn Dean

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Training Coordinator: Wendy Kennedy

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator: Susie Loik

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Communications, Media and IT Coordinator: Annette McCormick

Senior Deacon: Martha Worth

Deacons: Allen Baker, Fubara Braide, Stella Braide, Heather Jones, Brian Kemp, Allison Lowery, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Fran Panek, Gary Seigerst, Thomason Smith

Transition Team: Jacquelyn Dean and Nancy Loy, co-chairpersons, Todd Cunningham, Rev. Becky David, Scott Graham, Gregory Halbe, Susie Loik, Allison Lowery, Pavan Peter, Sarah Reed, Joshua Stafford

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Frank Cook

Trustees: Matthew Bendick, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Melody Leidheiser, Janet Miller, Sarah Reed, Judy Smith, (Secretary), Hugh Schultz

CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Moderator: Sarah Reed

Moderator-elect:

Treasurer: Ramona Moenter

Treasurer-elect:

Secretary: Amanda Butler

Secretary-elect:

Nominating Chair: Gregory Halbe

COMMISSIONERS

Church Stewardship and Church Growth: Stephen Sterrett

Church Stewardship and Church Growth-elect: Kathy Reed

Church Vitality: Pat Patterson

Church Vitality-elect: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

Communications and Technology Commission: Mike Kennedy

Communications and Technology Commission-elect: Nathaniel Powell

Faith Formation Commission: Cami Curren

Faith Formation Commission-elect: Mariner Taft

House & Grounds: Eric Klintworth

House & Grounds-elect:

Justice & Mercy: James Lowe

Justice & Mercy-elect: Janice Taft

Music, Arts & Heritage: Jim Griffin

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Cheryl Hoskinson

Member-at-Large: Martha Wilson

Personnel: Neal Brower

Personnel-elect:

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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