



Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Guild Sunday
February 19, 2017
8:30 am
Burkhart Chapel, South Campus

Welcome to First Community Church

We are a Christian church, affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ denominations. We welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith, and those who are searching.

Christian worship has been offered by First Community Church for over 107 years. By worshipping with us today, you become a part of that living tradition. Our regular worshippers and church members, supported by members of the staff and a large number of volunteers, make up our church community. We are committed to diversity, equal opportunities and personal and spiritual development of all who work and worship here, because, as our church's belief statement says, "we strive to follow the path of Jesus Christ while recognizing other pathways to the divine."

Thank you for being with us for worship today. If you desire a pastoral call, please indicate this on the welcome pad. If you are in need of prayer, please fill out a prayer card located in the Welcome pad booklet and place it in the offering plate. Our prayers go with you as you return to your home.

(The paper we use for the order of service is recycled. You are welcome to take it away with you, but, if you would like us to recycle it, please place it in one of the bins at an exit, as we are also committed to our environment, God's Creation.)

The Service of the Word and Sacrament

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

GUILD SUNDAY



"The arts have an especially great power to represent not only the ordinary in our experience and faith, but the very deepest aspects of it. Quilts represent our everyday lives; our need for warmth and beauty, and our need for creative expression. They arise out of our daily juggling of time and commitments and priorities. They express our moods and the colors and the designs of life's joys, pains, and realities. They take us deeper."

—Susan Towner-Larsen

From With Sacred Threads, Quilting and the Spiritual Life
by Susan Towner-Larsen and Barbara Brewer Davis
(The Prayers and Squares Ministry has been part
of our church's ministries for 15 years, since 2002)

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation (Hymn Tune: *Westminster Abbey*)
Henry Purcell (1658-1695)
Setting by Paul Manz (1919-2009)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blessed are all who seek the realm of God,
who hunger to find meaning in their lives.

**People: We intend to give our best to our Creator,
bearing fruit in all we say and do.**

Leader: Blessed are the ones who serve God with joy,
in faithfulness and hope.

**People: We come now to worship and find new life,
to receive healing and empowerment for our journey.**

†THE HYMN NO. 90

Rising in Darkness

Christe Sanctorum

†THE PRAYER⁽¹⁾

Leader: Eternal God, grant us an ease to breathe deeply of this moment
in worship, this light, and this miracle of now. Beneath the din
and fury of great movements and harsh news and urgent crises,

**All: Make us attentive still to good news, to small occasions,
and the grace of what is possible for us to be, to do, to give,
to receive,**

Leader: That we may miss neither our neighbor's gifts nor our enemy's
need. Holy God, grant us a sense of humor that adds perspective
to compassion,

All: Gratitude that adds persistence to courage,

Leader: Quietness of spirit that adds irrepressibility to hope,

All: Openness of mind that adds surprise to joy;

Leader: That with gladness of heart we may link arm and aim with the
One who saw signs of Your kingdom in salt and yeast, pearls and
seeds, travelers and tax collectors, foreigners and fishermen,

**All: And who opens our eyes with these signs and our ears with
the summons to follow to something more of justice and joy.
Amen.**

THE COMMUNITY MOMENTS

†THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:38-48

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE HOMILY

THE CASE OF THE CRUNCHED CELLO

THE OFFERTORY

The Offertory Sentence

The Receiving of the People's Gifts

The Organ Voluntary

Holy Spirit, Light Divine

(Hymn tune: *Mercy*)

Louis Moreau Gottschalk (1829-1869)

Setting by Gordon Young (1919-1998)

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

†THE HYMN NO. 342

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

St. Flavian

(All are invited to remain standing.)

†THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: We give thanks for Your blessing, an intrinsic gift of life.

People: We do not have to ask for it or seek it or fear that it will not be there. It is of the essence of life.

Celebrant: We thank You for our journey as persons and society toward realizing all the gifts of creation.

People: And 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.

Celebrant: We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table.

We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, Whom You sent to be the Good News.

Loving God, Who sent a star to guide the magi to where Christ was born, and Whose signs and words in every age lead people to him: we thank You for showing us Jesus, the light of the world, by Whom we are redeemed and baptized into Your service.

All: Give your Holy Spirit in the breaking of this bread, so that we may be drawn together, and joined to Christ, receive new life. Amen.

(Following this prayer, the people may be seated.)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Celebrant: *(The Words of Institution for the Bread)*

In his brokenness we find our healing.

People: In our brokenness Christ promises to be present.

Celebrant: *(The Words of Institution for the Cup)*

Let us pray.

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Celebrant: Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.

People: Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst and in each other. Amen.

Celebrant: As Christ taught us, we are bold to pray,

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Come and eat. All is ready. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(We serve each element separately; first the element, words from the celebrant, partake together. Gluten free bread is available on each bread plate in a separate cup.)

THE CLOSING PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us together pray.

All: Bountiful God, we give You thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ, that we may allow the light of Christ's love to shine through us in an uncertain world. Amen.

†THE HYMN NO. 82

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Ar Hyd Y Nos

†THE BENEDICTION

†THE POSTLUDE

In Christ There Is No East or West

Hymn tune: *McKee*

Based on African-American Spiritual by Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

Setting by Dale Wood (1938-2003)

~ The End of Worship, the Beginning of Service ~

† *All rise in body or spirit*

PARTICIPANTS

Homilist/Celebrant: The Reverend Mr. Paul E. Baumer
Minister to the Staff

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Kathleen A. Houchens, *Organist*

⁽¹⁾ This prayer is from *Guerrillas of Grace, Prayers for the Battle*, by Ted Loder, published by LuraMedia, San Diego, California, 1984. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

- **Welcome visitors!** Stop by our Welcome Center for information on programs and activities and pick up a copy of our newspaper.
- **Church Membership:** Please contact Kristy Glaser at (614) 488-0681 ext. 161 or kglaser@FCchurch.com if you are interested in becoming a member.
- **Baptisms:** Our next Baptism Sunday will be March 5. For more information go to FCchurch.com/baptisms. To schedule a public or private baptism, contact Paula Russell at (614) 488-0681 ext. 228 or prussell@FCchurch.com
- Watch the 11 am service from the South Campus live at FCchurch.tv
- Watch *First Edition* on WWHO-TV, The CW, Sunday mornings at 10:30 am.
- Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available; ask an usher.
- Today, the Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry is presenting three quilts. Tie a knot and say a prayer in Unity Lounge at the North Campus or the Weist Room at the South Campus following the worship service. The quilts are for David Smith, Mike & Shirley Weasel and Eva Wolfe.

TODAY AT FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

North Campus

9:15 am Worship: Grace Hall
 Crib to 5 years: Rose Wing
 K-5th grades: Begin in worship, then excused to classes in the Rose Wing.

10:30 am Worship: Grace Hall
 Crib to 5 years: Rose Wing
 K-5th grades: Begin in worship, then excused to classes in the Rose Wing.
 Middle School: Begin in worship, then excused to the Education Wing.

South Campus

8:30 am Worship: Burkhart Chapel
 Communion served.

9:30 am Adult Education: Wicker Room
Great World Religions: Judaism
 DVD Lecture Series

11 am Worship: Sanctuary
 Crib to 5 years: Rooms 221 & 110
 K-5th grades: Begin in worship, then excused to Lincoln Road Chapel.
 Middle School: Begin in worship, then excused to Lincoln Road Chapel.

Today the K-5 children will explore Paul's letters.

Grades 6-12 are invited to **Crossroads** tonight, 7 - 8:30 pm, North Campus.

Available Today Following Worship

- Grocery Gift Cards (Mission Council)
- Deep Griha BBQ tickets
- Women's Guild

THE PRAYERS AND SQUARES MINISTRY
Celebrating 15 years of service at First Community Church

Prayers & Squares is an interfaith outreach organization that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. Unlike many other groups that make quilts for charitable causes, the purpose of Prayers & Squares is not to make and distribute quilts, but to promote prayer through the use of quilts. Our motto is: "It's not about the quilt; it's all about the prayers."

Each Knot Represents a Prayer. The idea behind these prayer quilts is simple. A heavy thread is used to take stitches through the quilt layers, and the ends are left free to be tied with square knot. As each knot is tied, a silent prayer is said for someone in special need, who then receives the finished quilt. We do this after our worship services when a quilt is requested through our Pastoral Care team.

Through Prayers & Squares many quilts have been distributed, each a special gift of love. They have been made for sick babies, for cancer and chronically ill patients, for adults and children facing surgery or personal crisis, to offer comfort during times of bereavement; for many, many reasons, but each for someone in special need of prayer.

Prayers & Squares began in 1992 at Hope United Methodist Church in Rancho Bernardo, California. The history of the organization includes the touching story about the first prayer quilt, made for 2-year-old Kody. There are now over 1000 chapters around the world, including South Africa and Abu Dubai and Australia.

The Prayers and Squares Ministry at First Community Church began in January, 2002. The first quilt was tied in church on February 3rd that year. As we celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of this ministry we can report that over 700 quilts have been created at our South Campus location in the Annex building. This number includes quilts for Rafiki Children's Center, Kenya, East Africa, quilts for Back Bay Mission, the Ebenezer AME church in Charleston, South Carolina, the Gurudwara Skih Temple, the Columbus KTC Buddhist Center, and over 500 to congregational members and associates.

The Prayers and Squares team numbers twenty-two members who meet each Thursday morning to create quilts, share prayer time together and rejoice together over what a blessing it is to have the opportunity to create these prayer quilts each week.

If you are aware of someone in our congregation who would appreciate Pastoral Care support and prayer, please contact the Pastoral Care office at prussell@FCchurch.com

Perhaps they would enjoy having prayers in the form of a quilt as well!

Parish Register

As of 2/15/17

Our Pastoral Care staff is available if you desire a visit or call during an illness, hospitalization or time of need.

Deaths

Christopher Gage 10/2/16

Larry Blacksmith 2/8/17

Brother-in-law of Shirley (Dick) Wing

Uncle of Stephanie Evans

Dorothy "Dottie" Cowles 2/8/17

Mother of Pam Cowles

Mother of David Cowles

Bill Scott 2/12/17

Father of Andy (Kari) Scott

Grandfather of Samantha & Ian Scott

Recently Hospitalized

Marcia Early

Upcoming Memorial Service

Anne Sheline

Saturday, February 25, 2017

2 pm, Sanctuary/Rev. James Long

Reception to follow, Brownlee Hall

Visit FCchurch.com/parish-register to view listings of upcoming Memorial Services. Please send notifications of births, hospitalizations, weddings or deaths to prussell@FCchurch.com or call (614) 488-0681 ext 228.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 1, 7 pm

Grace Hall, North Campus

A Service in the Manner of the Community of Taizé

Led by our Clergy staff, the Chamber Singers and Youth Bell Choir I

Our service blends elements of a Taizé service with traditional Ash Wednesday liturgy and choral music. A large wooden cross 'sits' on its side atop the center platform, surrounded by dozens of candles of various sizes. Worshippers are invited to light one of the candles as part of their individual meditation. The symbolism of the cross on its side represents the position and angle of the cross when Jesus was carrying it on his shoulder and when Simon of Cyrene, compelled by the Roman guards, stooped to pick it up and carry it for Jesus.

All are welcome for this candlelight service.