



Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Guild Sunday
February 19, 2017
9:15 am
Grace Hall, North 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

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 RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE CALL TO CONTEMPLATION

*For the quiet time during the prelude, we invite you to be in prayer.
As you leave the service of worship, join in rejoicing with your neighbor.*

THE HANDBELL PRELUDE

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Rick Founds (b 1954)
Setting by Peggy Ann Bettcher (b 1961)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God summons us from the sun's rising to its setting.
Listen, for the mighty One speaks to us.

**People: Our God comes and does not keep silence.
Through fire and tempest, God is with us.**

Leader: Open your ears to the good news of the gospel.
Open your eyes to the glory of God.

**People: We have come to share knowledge of Jesus Christ.
We gather, seeking transformation and empowerment.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

†THE OPENING SONG

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In⁽¹⁾

Enter, Rejoice



1 En - ter, re-joyce and come in. En - ter, re-joyce and come in
2 O - pen your-self to the song. O - pen your-self to the song.
3 Lift up your hearts to the Lord. Lift up your hearts to the Lord.

(Greeting one another: "Peace be with you!")

4 En - ter, re-joyce and come in. En- ter re-joyce and come in.



To - day will be a joy - ful day; en - ter, re-joyce and come in!

†THE PRAYER⁽²⁾

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 ALLELUIA ⁽³⁾

Howard Hughes (b 1930)

(The choir will sing each line, and the congregation then repeats it.)

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

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

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

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

THE WELCOME

A Moment for Guild Sunday

THE PSALTER READING

Psalm 119:33-38, 2

Leader: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

People: Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and follow it with my whole heart.

Leader: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

People: Turn my heart to Your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

Leader: Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in Your ways.

People: Confirm to Your servant Your promise, which is for those who honor You.

Leader: Happy are those who seek God with their whole heart and walk in God's ways.

THE CHORAL PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

Lead Me, Lord (Psalm 5:8)

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness,
Make Thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, Thou, Thou, Lord, only
That makes me dwell in safety.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

(Following the prayers, the children in K-5 will be invited to leave for their Sunday School classes.)

THE OFFERTORY

The Offertory Sentence

The Receiving of the People's Gifts

The Anthem

Go Not Far From Me, O God Niccolò Antonio Zingarelli (1752-1837)

Go not far from me, O God; cast me not away in the time of age: forsake me not when my strength faileth me. O let my mouth be filled with Thy praise: that I may sing Thy glory and honor all the day long. Psalm 71:12a, 9, 8

†The *Doxology* and Presentation of Gifts

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below:
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

†The Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Let us together pray.

People: With these gifts, we express our desire to observe Your law with wholeness of heart,

Leader: To delight in Your commandments with all that we have and all that we are,

People: To honor You not only when we are together, but in difficult places when we are apart.

Leader: May our church reach out to care for all Your people.

All: May we remember that we are Your church, Your temple, Your holy ones. Amen.

(The people may be seated.)

THE READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Exodus 16:1-3, 9-12

Leader: These words are breathed into us by the Holy Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE SERMON

CH-CH-CHANGES

Part 2 – The Uncertain Middle

†THE CLOSING HYMN

Go, My Children⁽⁴⁾

Ar Hyd Y Nos



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here with ten - der com - fort stilled you;



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.

†THE BENEDICTION

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

Variation on the Hymn Tune, "Webb"

James Mansfield (1889-1968)

~ The End of Worship, the Beginning of Service ~

† All rise in body or spirit

PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Deborah C. Lindsay
Executive Minister

Liturgist: The Reverend Mr. David S. Hett
Minister of Religious Life and Learning

Guild Speaker: Karen Claussen

Ushers: Group B

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Ronald J. Jenkins, *Minister of Music & Liturgy*
Sally R. Beske, *Associate Organist and Youth Choirs Director*

THE CHANCEL CHAMBER CHOIR

Tom Root, *acoustic guitar/songleader*

THE YOUTH BELL CHOIR 2

- **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 kgclaser@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.
- If you need to step out during worship – restless child, coughing spell, etc. – the service can be heard in Unity Lounge.
- 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)
- Women's Guild
- Deep Griha BBQ tickets

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!

FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mission Statement

First Community Church is called to embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the eternal love of God, honoring and expanding our heritage of innovative ministry with a commitment to growth.

To that end, we will provide:

- a center for worship, celebration, study, fellowship, and sanctuary;
- resources for support for new forms of ministry;
- opportunities for learning and spiritual growth through all the seasons of life;
- motivation and resources for empowering service to each other and to the world;
- an inclusive Christian community respecting pluralism, agreeing to differ, resolving to love and uniting to serve.

Vision Statement

A diverse community of individuals, each actively seeking to make Christ's example of God's love for every person real in our world through service, study, worship and giving:

- celebrating life in groupings of families and individuals,
- risking with innovation while honoring tradition,
- encouraging search and empowering belief,
- standing with those who suffer,
- loving unconditionally.

Belief Statement

First Community Church is "the church of the infinite quest." This is the description of our church given by the Reverend M. H. Lichliter in 1924.

Remaining true to that spirit, our church believes:

- All people are included in God's unconditional love and grace.
- In Jesus Christ whose life revealed God's love at work in the human family.
- In the Holy Spirit as the power by which we are brought into closer harmony with our Creator.

Therefore we:

- Strive to follow the path of Jesus Christ, while recognizing other pathways to the Divine.
- Encourage each person's spiritual journey, embracing a variety of spiritual disciplines.
- Understand that the words we use to express our faith are to be lived out by loving and compassionate action.
- Take the Bible seriously, not literally; finding more grace in the search for meaning than in absolute certainty.
- Agree to disagree, resolve to love and unite to serve.

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.

⁽¹⁾ *Enter, Rejoice and Come In.* Words and Music © 1992 Louise Ruspini. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ *Joyful Alleluia.* Howard Hughes, S.M. © 1973, 1979 G.I.A. Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

⁽⁴⁾ *Go, My Children.* Tune traditional Welsh melody. Words stanza one © 1983; stanza two © 1990. Both by Jaroslav J. Vajda. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-708978.