



Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
24th Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 28
November 12, 2017
11 am
Sanctuary, 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, Columbus, Ohio, for over 108 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 for you, 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

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time



*"Why fear the dark?
How can we help but love it
When it is the darkness
That brings the stars to us?
What's more: who does not know
That it is on the darkest nights
That the stars acquire
Their greatest splendor?"*

by Dom Helder Camara⁽¹⁾

THE CALL TO CONTEMPLATION

For the time during the prelude, we invite you to prepare for worship in silent meditation. As you leave the service of worship, join in rejoicing with your neighbor.

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

Cantilene

Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Morning has broken. Let us give thanks for the gift of life and for the presence of the Holy One among us.

People: **Let us worship God together.**

†THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 1

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

†THE PRAYER

Leader: Steadfast God, the signs of the changing season have greeted us. The summer flowers have faded. The grains and seeds are hardening to protect the germ of life against winter's freeze. The resurrection that we greeted in spring has faded and is descending back to earth again.

People: **You are the Lord of autumn and winter as much as of summer and spring.**

Leader: In the midst of this diminishing, remind us of forever unfading treasures—

People: **Your brilliant glory, Your love for us, and the hope You place within us.**

Leader: Through all the seasons You weave our lives together, uniting us in one human family: from many different places, from different kinds of families, and from different understandings of Your will for our lives. Open our hearts, O God, to a new understanding of the wideness of Your love, which flings open church doors and celebrates the immensity and diversity of Your creation.

All: **Confident that Your love weathers all seasons and all our attempts to define it, we lift our hearts in thankful praise!**

†THE HYMN OF PROMISE⁽²⁾

Promise

The musical score is written on four staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree; in co - coons a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free! In the near ap - proach of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see."

THE WELCOME

(During the Welcome the children and youth in K-8 will be invited to leave for their Sunday school classes to continue their worship and study.)

THE PSALTER READING

Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24

O God, You have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue, O God, You know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before, and lay Your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of
the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall
hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
Even the darkness is not dark to You;
the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to You.
For it was You who formed my inward parts;
You knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise You, for I am wonderfully made.

Wonderful are Your works, O God.
How precious are Your thoughts to me!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—and I am still with You.

Search me, O God, and know my heart.
Test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any unjust way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting!

THE ANTHEM

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand** arranged by Howard Helvey (b 1968)
Original words and music by Thomas Andrew Dorsey (1899-1993)

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord linger near,
When my light is almost gone;
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone;
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

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.

THE OFFERTORY

The Offertory Sentence

The Receiving of the People's Gifts

The Anthem

Praise God

Craig Courtney (b 1954)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God,
all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One!

Praise God in the sanctuary: Praise God for the mighty acts.
Praise God in the firmament of God's power. Praise God
according to God's excellent greatness. Praise God!

I will extol the Lord, my God, and I will bless God's name
forever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. The Lord
is righteous and holy. The Lord is gracious and kind; full of
compassion, slow to anger; God's tender mercies are over all
God's works; our God is good to all.

Praise God! Praise God! Praise God! Praise God!

Praise God in the sanctuary; Praise God for the mighty acts.
Praise God in the firmament of God's power. Let ev'rything
that hath breath praise the Lord!

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all
creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Praise God! Praise God!

†The Hymn and Presentation of the Gifts

Lasst uns erfueren

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
 Praise God, our strength, whose power uplifts!
 Praise creation, God's creation!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

†The Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Let us pray.

Take time to count your blessings. The works of God are all around us. As we respond to God's goodness with acts of charity and love, let us live in this life of love, caring for one another.

All: Loving God, in this moment and with these gifts, we offer ourselves and our substance to extend Your work on earth. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

†The Hymn

These Treasured Children⁽³⁾

Puer Nobis Nascitur

1 These treasured children present now are bound to
 2 Our ancient story we shall tell, till these our
 3 We long to trust as children do and so en-
 4 Come, Holy Spirit, help us be a nur- tur-
 5 Then, tender God, each child embrace, God give them
 us by sacred vow: with love, we make a heart-felt
 children know it well with-in their souls and minds and
 trust our days to You; in their young lives we clear-ly
 ing com-mu-ni-ty; em-pow-er us to re-a-
 bless-ings, grant them grace. Sur-prise them, God, with won-ders
 claim to wel-come them in Je-sus' name.
 hearts, for this is where their jour-ney starts.
 see a les-son in hu-mil-i-ty.
 lize God's king-dom through our chil-dren's eyes.
 still, and gent-ly guide them to Your will.

†A Statement of Faith (The United Church of Canada, adapted)

Leader: Let us affirm what we believe.

**All: We are not alone; we live in God's world.
 We believe in God; who has created and is creating;
 Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new;
 Who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God:
We are called to be the Church,
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**
(The people may be seated.)

The Address to the Parents

The Act of Baptism

†The Congregational Covenant

Leader: Would all rise in body or spirit.

I ask you to join with me in declaring our part in helping these children discover the grace of God within themselves.

All: We receive these children now as new persons in Christ. We promise to give their parents our support as they live with their children in the pathways of Christ. We offer ourselves also, as ones who take them into our love, our prayers, and our daily lives, striving for their nurturing, to build in this place a community rich in the spirit of God. We promise this so that they may come to know the wondrous love of God and may live with us for Christ, showing forth God's love for all people. Thanks be to God!
(The people may be seated for the reading.)

THE EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Common English Bible

¹³Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about people who have died so that you won't mourn like others who don't have any hope. ¹⁴Since we believe that Jesus died and rose, so we also believe that God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus. ¹⁵What we are saying is a message from the Lord: we who are alive and still around at the Lord's coming definitely won't go ahead of those who have died. ¹⁶This is because the Lord himself will come down from heaven with the signal of a shout by the head angel and a blast on God's trumpet. First, those who are dead in Christ will rise. ¹⁷Then, we who are living and still around will be taken up together with them in the clouds to meet with the Lord in the air. That way we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸So encourage each other with these words.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

LETTERS FROM HOME

Part 2 – No Worries

†THE HYMN NO. 425
For the Fruit of All Creation

Ar Hyd Y Nos

†THE BENEDICTION

†THE ORGAN POSTLUDE
Fuga: Allegro moderato (Sonata II) Felix Mendelssohn (1807-1847)

~ *The End of Worship, the Beginning of Service* ~

† *All rise in body or spirit*

PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. R. Glen Miles
Senior Minister

Liturgists: The Reverend Ms. Katherine H. Shaner
Minister of Mission
Leigh Anne Easterling
*Director of Early Childhood Ministries
& Mary Evans Child Development Center*

Deacons Assisting: Dawn Costin and Kevin Satterfield

Acolyte: Anna Obergefell

Ushers: Group A, Herb Johnston

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Ronald J. Jenkins, *Minister of Music and Liturgy*
Robert A. Griffith, *Organist*

Sally R. Beske, *pianist/Associate Organist and Director of Youth Choirs*

BAPTISMS

Mabel Bioty Adams
Anne Elizabeth Forsythe
Charlotte Adele Gentzel
Harper Martha Lin
Parker Charles Lin
Mack Schuyler Cloyd Shook

- **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 kglasser@FCchurch.com if you are interested in becoming a member.
- **Baptisms:** Our next Baptism Sunday will be January 14. For more information go to FCchurch.com/baptisms. To schedule a baptism, contact Paula Russell at (614) 488-0681 ext. 228 or prussell@FCchurch.com
- Watch the 11 am South Campus service live on Facebook and FCchurch.tv
- Watch *First Edition* on WWHO-TV, The CW, Sunday mornings at 8:30 am.
- If you need to step out during worship – restless child, coughing spell, etc. – the service can be viewed in Gallery Court.
- Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available; ask an usher.

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 Room 130.

South Campus

8:30 am Worship: Chancel
 Communion served.

9:30 am Adult Education: Wicker Room
The Great Spiritual Migration
 by Brian McLaren

11 am Worship: Sanctuary
 Crib to 5 years: Rooms 221 & 209
 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 a passage from the book of Psalms.

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

⁽¹⁾ Dom Hélder Pessoa Câmara (1909-1999) was Roman Catholic Archbishop of Olinda and Recife in Brazil. He retired as archbishop in 1985, and lived to see many of his reforms rolled back by his conservative successors. He is famous for stating, "When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a Communist."

⁽²⁾ *In the Bulb There Is a Flower.* © 1986 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

⁽³⁾ These Treasured Children. Text written by Jacque B. Jones, 2009. Copyright © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-708978.

* The anthem, *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*, was written and given as a gift from the composer, Howard Helvey, to Ronald Jenkins in honor of Ron's 35th anniversary in 2008 as Minister of Music & Liturgy of First Community Church. It was published in 2013 by Alliance Music Publications, Inc, Houston, Texas.

Our Pastoral Care staff is available if you desire a visit or call during an illness, hospitalization or time of need. Please send notifications of weddings, births, hospitalizations or deaths to prussell@FCchurch.com or call (614) 488-0681 ext 228

Parish Register

As of 11/8/17

Recently Hospitalized

Jim Gossard
Lynda Paul

Deaths

Catherine "Kay" Graf 11/5/17
Mother of Jack (Kay) Graf, Jr

Upcoming Memorial Services

Frank Hall
Saturday, November 18, 11 am
Sanctuary/Rev. Jim Long
Reception following in Brownlee Hall
Roberta Will (10/22/17)
Friday, November 24, 2 pm
Sanctuary/Rev. Jim Long

Visit FCchurch.com/parish-register to view listings of upcoming Memorial Services.

Carols for Christmas

Sunday afternoon, December 10, 4 pm

Grace Hall, North Campus

Our 44th annual Candlelight Christmas Concert presented by our Chancel Choir and Chamber Singers and Chamber Orchestra.

Conducted by Ronald Jenkins.

Freewill offering.

THE PROGRAM STAFF OF FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

R. Glen Miles, *Senior Minister*

Paul E. Baumer, *Minister to the Staff*

David S. Hett, *Minister of Religious Life and Learning*

Ronald J. Jenkins, *Minister of Music and Liturgy*

Deborah Countiss Lindsay, *Executive Minister*

James M. Long, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

Katherine H. Shaner, *Minister of Mission*

Sally R. Beske, *Associate Organist/Director of Youth Choirs*

Leigh Anne Easterling, *Director of Early Childhood Ministries*

& *Mary Evans Child Development Center*

Cindy Sue Gepfert, *Foundation Administrator*

Pam Jameson, *Director of Facilities Ministry*

Bobbi Mueller, *Director of North Campus Administration/Akita Operations*

Scot Nicoll, *Executive Director of Camp Akita*

Missy Obergefell, *Director of Older Adult Ministry*

Julie Richards, *Director of K-12 Ministry*

Paula L. Russell, *Director of Congregational Care*

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