



Advent

Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 10, 2017

8:30 am

Sanctuary Chancel, 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 and Sacrament

ADVENT II



How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given.

THE PIANO PRELUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Setting by John Carter (b 1930)

THE ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come as a child to the kingdom!

**All: Come believing in angels on heavenly errands,
with eyes for a wandering star
and ears for the message of dreams.**

Leader: Come as a child who hears the angel proclaim,
"With God all things are possible!"

**All: Come as a child to the miraculous kingdom
of our miraculous God!**

†THE HYMN FOR ADVENT NO. 116, vs. 1, 2, & 7

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

†THE ADVENT PRAYER

Leader: With sincerity of heart and full assurance of faith, let us pray.

All: O God, You sent Your own son, Jesus, to earth as a child, to be cradled in all hearts. But we are often unwilling guardians, unprepared to love One who makes demands on us at any hour. You ask that we receive Your love as a child, with trust and joy, but we are far too grown up to love without calculating the cost.

Leader: As Your Son lived out his youth in Nazareth, maturing in grace and wisdom, You bid us realize that our lives are not yet complete and we are not yet fully mature.

All: We confess our reluctance to admit that we have growing yet to do. Holy God, forgive us. Help us to become as children: astonished at grace, accepting of love, and hungry for spiritual maturity.

†THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our Savior says, "Let not your heart be troubled. In my Father's house are many rooms... I go to prepare a place for you...that where I am you may be also." Friends, the love of God is roomy, full of welcome. Know that you are forgiven; receive the welcome of God, where you will always find shelter.

All: Thanks be to God!

†THE RESPONSE *(The people singing)*

In dulci jubilo

**Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now give heed to what we say; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

THE COMMUNITY MOMENTS

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE: The Bethlehem Candle

The First Prophecy Reading: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 5-7, 9

Leader: Here ends the reading from the prophet Isaiah.

People: Thanks be to God!

†THE CAROL

St. Louis

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

†THE GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY

THE ONE WHO IS COMING

THE OFFERTORY

The Offertory Sentence

The Receiving of the People's Gifts

The Piano Voluntary

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Setting by Eugene Butler (b 1935)

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

†THE HYMN NO. 330, vs. 1

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let Us Break Bread

(All who are able are invited to remain standing.)

†THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: God be with you

People: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: We give You thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for Your blessing, an intrinsic gift of life. 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. And we thank You for our journey as persons and society toward realizing all the gifts of creation.

People: 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.

Celebrant: Even from the places of isolation or uncertainty, You have drawn us together today to remember and renew the covenant of love, which binds us to You and to one another.

People: We confess our feeble attempts to make life seem simpler than it really is, by denying the complexity and diversity of the whole human family.

Celebrant: Open our hearts, O God, to a new understanding of the wideness of Your love, which flings open church doors and celebrates the immensity of Your creation.

People: Loving God, who made this world a place for Jesus Christ and before he was born, promised his coming in the words of the prophets, we thank You for this holy supper, which is for us a sign of his returning to claim his lands and people. Amen.

(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)*

People of God, this cup is symbolic of the new life that is Christ. As he took scraps of bread and the cup of wine and made it a holy meal, we can trust that he takes our lives and makes them holy. We may also have confidence that God will make of this meal what our souls need.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. 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 Christ in our midst and in each other.

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. *Non-alcoholic grape juice is served for everyone and gluten free bread is available on each bread plate in a separate cup.)*

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us 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 faithfully proclaim the good news of Your love in an uncertain world. Amen.

†THE HYMN NO. 122

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

†THE BENEDICTION

†THE POSTLUDE

A Festive Postlude

Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

† *All rise in body or spirit*

PARTICIPANTS

Homilist/Celebrant: The Reverend Mr. David S. Hett
Minister of Religious Life and Learning

Lighting the Advent Candle: Diane Sturges

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Kathleen A. Houchens, *piano*

- **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 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.
- 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-3rd grades: Begin in worship, then excused to classes in the Rose Wing.
4th-5th grades: In worship.

10:30 am Worship: Grace Hall
Crib to 5 years: Rose Wing
K-3rd grades: Begin in worship, then excused to classes in the Rose Wing.
4th - 8th grades: In worship.

Today the K-3 children will be learning about Advent and getting ready for the mystery of Christmas.

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-3rd grades: Begin in worship, then excused to Lincoln Road Chapel.
4th - 8th grades: In worship.

Grades 6-12 will participate in **Adopt-A-Family** tonight 6 pm, North Campus.
Christianity 101 adult discussion group meets 7 - 8:30 pm, Room 211, North Campus.

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.

THIS AFTERNOON AT 4 PM
CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS
Grace Hall, North Campus

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

Conducted by Ronald Jenkins.

Guest artists: George Goad, *trumpet* and Charles Wetherbee, *violin*.
Freewill offering.

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 12/6/17

Recently Hospitalized

Neil Drobny

Deaths

Marilyn Schreiber 11/18/17

Sister of Arlene Keethler

Rev. Roger Miller 11/28/17

Central SE Ohio Conference UCC

Memorial Services

Catherine "Kay" Graf (11/5/17)

Saturday, January 6, 2018, 2 pm

Sanctuary/Rev. Jim Long

Reception following in Brownlee Hall

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

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*

FCchurch.com

info@FCchurch.com