



# Advent

Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 10, 2017  
10:30 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, 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.)*

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## The Service of the Word and Sacrament

ADVENT II



*God's Son became a human being.  
All our efforts to understand this great mystery are in vain.  
All that we can do is what the shepherds did—  
Worship, believe and praise God.*

— Cardinal Alfred Bengsch (1921-1979)

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### THE GATHERING AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

*(You are invited to come forward in silence to light a candle at the beginning of the service, or at any other appropriate time during the service of worship.)*

### THE HANDBELL PRELUDE

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*Veni Emmanuel, 15th century  
arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski (b 1950)*

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our God approaches; may our worship today prepare the way to welcome the Christ Child.

**All: For this Child will become the one who reveals the glory of God for all people.**

Leader: Let us find the places of fear and wilderness in ourselves and in the world, and in those places let us make a pathway for God to enter in,

**All: For the good tidings resound for every one of us – let us sing and pray in thanksgiving!**

†THE MORNING SONG *(All are invited to rise in body or spirit)*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And help us in that way to go.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

†THE PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: God in whom all hearts find welcome, we confess that we have not yet made as much room in our hearts for the Christ child as we want to.**

Leader: Like the innkeeper, we often relegate Christ to some out-of-the-way corner of our lives, without really intending to.

**People: Like Bethlehem at census time, we have little room for anything we haven't planned for.**

Leader: God, in whom all hearts find shelter, hear our prayer.

**All: Help us, in the midst of our busy, sometimes burdened lives, to welcome the One who always has time for us.**

†THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear again these words:

God will speak peace to the people, to God's faithful,  
to those who turn their hearts to God.

Salvation is at hand for those who honor God,  
that God's glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

THE WELCOME

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE: The Bethlehem Candle

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

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of God shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom  
and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,  
and the spirit of knowledge.  
His delight shall be in honoring God.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
They will not hurt or destroy on my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

Leader: Here ends the reading from the prophet Isaiah.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE CAROL (*remain seated to sing*)

*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.**

*(Following the Carol, the children in K-3 will be invited to leave for their  
Sunday school classes. Grades 4 & 5 and Middle School youth will remain  
in the service for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.)*

THE SECOND PROPHECY READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made  
low; the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of  
the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will  
stand forever. <sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of  
good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of  
good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup> See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his  
arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## THE SERMON

*LET EVERY HEART PREPARE*  
*Part 2 – Repeat the Sounding Joy*

## THE OFFERTORY

The Offertory Sentence

The Receiving of the People's Gifts

The Handbell Anthem

*The First Noel*      Traditional English Melody and Pachelbel's *Canon*  
arranged by Brenda Austin (b 1972)

†The Presentation of the Gifts and the Prayer of Dedication

Leader: As the gifts are presented, would all who are able please rise.  
With sincerity of heart and full assurance of faith, let us pray.

**People: O Lord our God, in holiness and splendor and love so strong  
that the stars tremble,**

Leader: You come to earth to love us.

**People: In gratitude for the precious gift of life, we bring these gifts.**

Leader: We resolve this hour to love Christ with fresh devotion,

**People: To serve him with renewed energy,**

Leader: And to seek him in deepened prayer.

**People: O God, bless this our promise.**

**All: Amen.**

## †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. 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)*

The world is hungry for love and justice, O God,

**People:** And we are hungry to become Your disciples.

**Celebrant:** Bless now this bread, that in eating it, we may be filled with the fullness of Jesus Christ, and empowered to live as his sisters and brothers among all those who are in need.

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

The world is thirsty for love and justice, O God,

**People:** And we thirst to become Your disciples.

**Celebrant:** Bless now this cup, that in drinking it, we may renew our covenant with You, and be fortified to nurture Your creation in hope and joy.

**People:** In our eating and drinking at this table, may our eyes be opened, and may we recognize the risen 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.

#### THE GIVING OF THE BREAD\* AND CUP

*Each person will be invited to come to a communion station to receive the bread and cup. You will receive the bread from the server. Each person may then dip the bread in the chalice held by the other server. An appropriate response to the server's words is "Amen." After receiving communion each person should return to his or her chair by the side aisle. Anyone who is unable to come forward should indicate this to an usher and communion will be brought to him or her.*

(\*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 CLOSING ADVENT CAROL

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

*Carol*

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

#### †THE BENEDICTION

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

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† *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*

The Reverend Mr. James M. Long  
*Minister of Pastoral Care*

**Lighting the Advent Candle:** Andy & Jill Snyder with Thomas and Zoe

**Ushers:** Group B

#### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Tom Root, *acoustic guitar/music leader*

#### THE WHITECHAPEL RINGERS

Carol T. Neff, *Director*

**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.

- **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](mailto: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](http://FCchurch.com/baptisms). To schedule a baptism, contact Paula Russell at (614) 488-0681 ext. 228 or [prussell@FCchurch.com](mailto:prussell@FCchurch.com)
- Watch the 11 am South Campus service live on Facebook and [FCchurch.tv](http://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 heard in Unity Lounge.
- 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.

**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.

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

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.

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](mailto: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](http://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*

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