



EvenSong

A Lenten Choral Service

Friday, March 15 | 7:30 pm
First Community Church South Campus
Columbus, Ohio

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 faith traditions or from no faith tradition; anyone who is searching for deeper meaning and purpose in life.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation committed to equality, diversity, and personal and spiritual growth. We follow the way of Jesus as our teacher and model toward becoming more fully human, as part of our church's belief statement states: "We strive to follow the path of Jesus Christ while recognizing other pathways to the divine."

(Please recycle your bulletins and any inserts if you are not taking them with you. Recycling bins are located at each exit. Thank you.)

Lenten EvenSong



*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

--The Peace of Wild Things, Wendell Berry (b 1934)

THE CALL TO CONTEMPLATION:

A Celtic Evening Prayer,

Iona Abbey Worship Book

Come to us this night, O God.

Come to us with Light.

Speak to us this night, O God.

Speak to us your Truth.

Dwell with us this night, O God.

Dwell with us in Love.

THE PRELUDE

String Quartet No. 1 in D Major, Op. 11 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
Andante Cantabile

I Waited for the Lord

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Sonata No. 2 in A minor (BWV 1003)
Andante

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Prayer from Genius Child

Ricky Ian Gordon (b 1956)

French Suite II in C minor (BWV 817)
Allemande
Sarabande

Johann Sebastian Bach

†THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN #100 (*The congregation standing to sing*)

All Praise Be Yours, My God, This Night

Tallis' Cannon

†THE SERVICE OF LIGHT



L Je-sus Christ is the Light of the world,



C the light no darkness can over-come.



L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning,



C and the day is almost o-ver.



L Let your light scat-ter the dark-ness,



C and illumine your Church.

Leader: Enlighten our heart, O God,

All: That we may see you.

Leader: Enlighten our heart, O God,

All: That we may truly see ourselves.

Leader: Enlighten our heart, O God,

All: That we may know the sacredness of this moment, and in every moment, seek you, serve you, strengthen you as the Living Presence in every presence. Enlighten our heart, O God, that we may see.

†THE THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

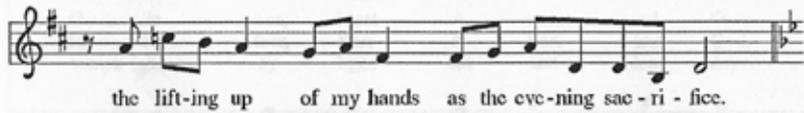
Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for from the start you called light into being, and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day. In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night you led your people into freedom. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may it be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are gracious, loving your entire Creation: You are the love of each living creature, O God. You are the warmth of the rising sun. You are the whiteness of the moon. You are the life of the growing earth. You are the strength of the waves of the sea. Speak to us this night, O God. Speak to us your truth. Dwell with us this night, O God. Dwell with us in love.

All: Amen.

THE PSALMODY

Leader: We call upon you, O God; come quickly. Give ear to our voices when we call to you.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are for 'All' and the last two are for 'Women'. The lyrics are: 'Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense; the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;'. The music is simple and melodic, with a clear emphasis on the lyrics.



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

Men
Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

Women
Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;

let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil -

Men
do - ers. But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;

in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.

All
Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;

the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

THE SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

(We will maintain a short period of silence, ending with the following response.)

Leader: O Christ, kindle in our hearts a flame of love to our neighbor, to our foes, our friends, to our kindred all.

All: O Christ of the poor and the yearning, from the humblest thing that lives to the name that is highest of all, kindle in our hearts a flame of love. Amen.

†THE HYMN

Now It Is Evening

Evening Hymn

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

Unison

G D/F# C/G G

1. Now it is eve - ning; lights of the cit - y
 2. Now it is eve - ning; lit - tle ones sleep - ing
 3. Now it is eve - ning; food on the ta - ble
 4. Now it is eve - ning; here in our meet - ing

Am7 G/B C Dsus4 D

bid us re - mem - ber Christ is our light.
 bid us re - mem - ber Christ is our peace.
 bids us re - mem - ber Christ is our life.
 may we re - mem - ber Christ is our friend.

Bm Em Am Dsus4 D

Man - y are lone - ly, who will be neigh - bor?
 Some are ne - glect - ed, who will be neigh - bor?
 Man - y are hun - gry, who will be neigh - bor?
 Some may be strang - ers, who will be neigh - bor?

Am7 G/B C D G

Where there is car - ing Christ is our light.
 Where there is car - ing Christ is our peace.
 Where there is shar - ing Christ is our life.
 Where there's a wel - come Christ is our friend.

THE CONTEMPORARY READING

The Journey by Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

THE MASS

Missa Brevis Sti. Johannes de Deo (Kleine Orgelmesse)

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

CREDO

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. Born of the Father before all ages. God from God, light from light, true God from true God. Begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven. And became incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again, according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom shall have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who together is adored and glorified, who spoke through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your Glory. Hosanna in the highest.

BENEDICTUS

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us, grant us peace.

†THE LITANY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Following each bidding prayer expressed by the Leader, there will be a few moments of silence for personal, silent prayers. As we close, we will join the choir in chanting The Lord's Prayer.)

Let us pray for the church and the world.

Holy One of blessing, grant that all who follow your way may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your Presence in the world. *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace, that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use and replenish its resources in the service of our brothers and sisters throughout this planet. *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as Christ loves us. *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your wholeness. *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We commend to your care all who have died, that they may fully rest in your love; and we pray that we might share with your saints, even now, that kingdom of love that is present in our midst. *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Make us pilgrims as we continue these Forty Days, and bless our journey through the wilderness of Lent. Drive us deeper into our hearts. May our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms a making of peace, and our prayers, the chant of humble and grateful hearts. *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Hear these prayers, O God. We offer them through Jesus the Christ, who, in the tradition of the church, taught us when we pray:

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
 your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
 Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
 for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

THE HYMN #92 (*remain seated to sing*)
Day Is Done

Ar Hyd Y Nos

THE BLESSING

May the mighty angels of Heaven
 guard the four corners of earth tonight.
 May the mighty messengers of Life
 hold in balance the sacred elements of the universe.
 May the mighty bearers of Presence
 safeguard the direction of our hearts this night
 that we may sleep in peace
 that we may dream of justice
 that we may wake to the world's oneness that
 we may wake to the world's newborn oneness.

For those wishing to contribute to the music ministry of First Community Church, offering plates will be available as you exit the Sanctuary. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

THE POSTLUDE

Fantasia in C Minor, BWV 537

Johann Sebastian Bach

PARTICIPANTS

The Reverend Mr. David S. Hett
The Reverend Mr. James M. Long
Virginia Macali, *reader*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Dr. C. Andrew Blosser, *Interim Director of Music*
Robert A. Griffith, *Organist*
Sally Beske, *piano*
Julie Wilkinson, *soprano*
Amy Parker, *soprano*
Amy Blosser, *mezzo-soprano*
Dameon Jones, *tenor*
Arthur Marks, *tenor*

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Violin I

Juan Carlos Ortega
Sandra Crandall

Violin II

Anita Chui
Lane Champa

Cello

Samuel Johnson

Bass

Chad Greenwald

Lenten Household Prayers*

Morning

Loving God, all night I slept in your shadow, sheltered by you. As I enter the gift of this day, I trust that you are with me. May I see signs and wonders of your presence in the world today, for you alone are God. I ask that this day afford me opportunities to celebrate and share with others the abundance of your grace and love. Help me to be open to all people you bring my way, for you yourself make no distinctions, but are God of all. In Christ's name I pray.

Amen.

Evening

God, my dwelling place, as the shadows fall, I rest in you. Thank you for the faith that held me fast this day. Thank you, too, for every person who offered me grace, and for those to whom I could also show grace. I pray this night for all who long to see a sign of your power in the darkness that surrounds them. Be near to them and touch them with your presence and wholeness. And in the morning when I rise, give me work to do for another day; in Jesus' name.

Amen.

*From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012)

THE PROGRAM STAFF OF FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

R. Glen Miles, *Senior Minister*
David S. Hett, *Minister of Religious Life and Learning*
James M. Long, *Minister of Pastoral Care*
Katherine H. Shaner, *Minister of Mission*
Paul Anderson, *Executive Director of Operations*
Sally Beske, *Associate Organist/Director of Youth Choirs*
C. Andrew Blosser, *Interim Director of Music*
Leigh Anne Easterling, *Director of Early Childhood Ministries
& Mary Evans Child Development Center*
Pam Jameson, *Director of Facilities Ministry*
Bobbi Mueller, *Director of North Campus Administration/Akita Operations*
Morgan Mulgrew, *Director of Communications*
Missy Obergefell, *Director of Older Adult Ministry*
Julie Richards, *Director of K-12 Ministry*
Paula Russell, *Director of Congregational Care*
Linda Silva, *Director of Stewardship*
Lois Zook, *Worship and Arts Coordinator*